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IRA threatens peace talks

By MARTIN FLETCHER

THE IRA threw the peace process into turmoil yesterday by disavowing the so-called Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence to which its political wing, Sinn Féin, had solemnly committed itself on Tuesday.

It also ruled out any disarmament during the peace negotiations due to begin on Monday, and rejected the principle of consent whereby a majority of Northern Ireland's people would have to approve any constitutional change.

Outraged Unionists demanded Sinn Féin's expulsion from the negotiations and Ulster Unionist Party officials

Terms to which Adams agreed prove unacceptable

said they saw no way that their executive would now agree to face-to-face talks with Sinn Féin. Proximity talks remain a possibility.

The British and Irish Governments and the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party all expressed dismay, while the Democratic Unionists claimed the IRA had "launched an Exocet" at the entire peace process.

The IRA's dramatic intervention came in the form of an interview in *An Phoblacht*, the Republican movement's official mouthpiece.

An unnamed spokesman said that the IRA "would have problems with sections of the Mitchell principles" to which Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, pledged his "total and absolute" commitment at Stormont on Tuesday. Those principles include a commitment to democratic and exclusively peaceful means of resolving political issues, the renunciation of violence to influence negotiations, and the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations.

Unionists have long demanded some IRA disarmament as proof of Sinn Féin's commitment to peace, but the IRA spokesman insisted that no-one had "ever realistically expected us to agree to decommissioning this side of a political settlement... decommissioning would be tantamount to surrender."

The IRA spokesman also rejected the principle of consent, saying the only valid consent was that of all Ireland. "The idea that a minority grouping in Ireland, situated within the Six Counties, should have a veto over political progress in the island as a whole is anathema to republicans."

Mitchel McLaughlin, the Sinn Féin chairman, struggled to explain the interview yesterday. He insisted that it changed nothing and would help to clarify the situation before the negotiations. "Sinn Féin is a political party with a democratic mandate. We are not spokesmen for the IRA. We are not representing the IRA and we didn't sign up on behalf of the IRA."

But no one in Belfast, Dublin or London accepted that. Ken Maginnis of the DUP and

Peter Robinson of the DUP both denounced Tuesday's ceremony as a sham and a charade and called on the Government to withdraw Sinn Féin's invitation to the talks on Monday.

The Northern Ireland Office, which said there was no doubt that Sinn Féin and the IRA were "inextricably linked", acknowledged that the interview was "worrying". And Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, said the interview was "a matter of major concern". He insisted that the entire republican movement had to honour the Mitchell principles.

Why the IRA spoke, page 2

Early payers to see gas bills fall by up to £50

By ALASDAIR MURRAY AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH GAS is to cut bills for prompt payers by up to £50 a year from January as competition within the industry intensifies. But customers who pay for their gas in advance through meters — usually the poorest people — will receive no benefit.

Centrica, the British Gas parent company, said yesterday that it had been able to cut prices because of lower transport costs and the removal of the gas levy next year.

The average bill is expected to fall by £28 a year. Six million customers who pay by direct debit — and already enjoy a 6 per cent discount for doing so — will see their bills fall by about £50, while up to ten million people who settle within ten days will benefit to the tune of £33 a year.

The move is certain to heighten the price war between Centrica and its main rivals as the industry moves towards nationwide competition in June. Rivals in the South have been undercutting Centrica by up to 20 per cent.

Mike Alexander, managing director of British Gas Trading, said the cuts were designed to benefit as many customers as possible. But the Gas Consumers Council gave the move only a cautious welcome, saying it would disadvantage poorer people who prepaid their bills. Prices for those customers have been frozen pending a review by the industry regulator Ofgas.

She Slipman, the consumers' council director, said: "There are going to be millions of consumers who will be better off because of this."

Particularly for the elderly, for those who pay promptly and use low volumes of gas, this is good news.

"It is not good news, however, for the one million people who have pre-payment meters. What we cannot do is abandon the poor, and that is what we are doing now."

But Mr Alexander said that people on pre-payment schemes were effectively still getting a subsidy from other British Gas customers. "They already get a good deal because they are paying less than the cost of supply."

Ms Slipman also expressed concern yesterday over plans to reduce the smell of gas — which unions interpreted as an attempt to cut jobs.

Natural gas has no odour and a chemical is added to domestic supplies so that leaks can be detected. Transco, the British Gas pipeline network, is now studying whether to reduce the levels of odourant to reduce emergency call-outs.

Transco announced its proposals during a cost-cutting presentation to unions at which plans to cut 2,500 jobs were outlined. And yesterday Unison claimed that the move was designed to cut the number of calls from the public about leaks and thereby the number of gas engineers.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, the Unison general secretary, said: "Lives will be put at risk if Transco goes ahead with this ludicrous plan. If gas is made more difficult to smell it will mean more gas leaks will go undetected increasing the likely risk of explosion, serious injuries or even deaths."

But Transco denied that plans to reduce the smell were a cost-cutting ploy. A spokesman said: "Too much odourant will give rise to unnecessary emergency gas callouts, so diverting resources from the sources of real escapes."

Ms Slipman said: "It would be foolish at the opening of the competitive market for Transco to do anything that would jeopardise the public's confidence in gas safety."

Centrica results, page 23



The 700th anniversary of Wallace's defeat of the English was marked at Stirling yesterday

Confusion over Scots voting

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

SCOTLAND'S chief returning officer had to contact all 32 voting areas during yesterday's referendum after confusion over the two ballot papers.

Neil McIntosh took the action after it emerged that voters in some areas were not

automatically receiving their second ballot paper.

The referendum questions were on two sheets: the white asked if voters wanted a Scottish parliament and the green asked if they wanted the parliament to have tax varying powers.

But there were complaints that in some areas polling

officials were asking voters if they wanted the second paper or telling them to vote on the first and return for the second. Mr McIntosh said he did not believe the overall results had been seriously affected as the problem had been rectified quickly and no further difficulties had been reported since the morning.

British tourists flee gun battle on beach

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI AND JOANNA BALE

A BUS carrying British tourists had to escape from a Kenyan beach yesterday after a band of armed raiders launched an attack.

One Kenyan was killed and two were wounded, witnesses said, when more than 60 men armed with Kalashnikovs descended on Ukunda town, 15 miles south of Mombasa. Bars and shops were set on fire.

Reinforcements from Kenya's elite General Service Unit were called after police were forced to retreat. Fighting between the two sides was continuing near the beach resort last night.

The Britons were being driven from a Diani beach hotel to the Shima Hills National Park when their bus had to be diverted. John Ajode, a guide with Portland Holidays, who was on the bus, said most of the tourists now wanted their holidays cancelled and they had asked him to organise immediate all-risk insurance cover.

In recent weeks there have been a series of attacks on up-country Kenyans living on the coast. Ethnic groups from the interior, who are regarded locally as being opposed to President Daniel arap Moi, are blamed for the violence which has claimed more than 50 victims since the middle of last month.

A Foreign Office spokesman said last night: "The honorary consul in Mombasa is urgently checking on the safety of any British tourists."

Last month, thousands of Britons were confined to their hotels after five Kenyans were killed when youths armed with machetes and spears attacked a village north of Mombasa.

The Foreign Office has warned against travelling after dark and advises tourists to be "particularly vigilant and to keep in close touch with their tour operators, hotels and local authorities."

Around 100,000 Britons visit Kenya each year. However, its image as a holiday resort has been tarnished in recent years by the murder and rape of a number of tourists.

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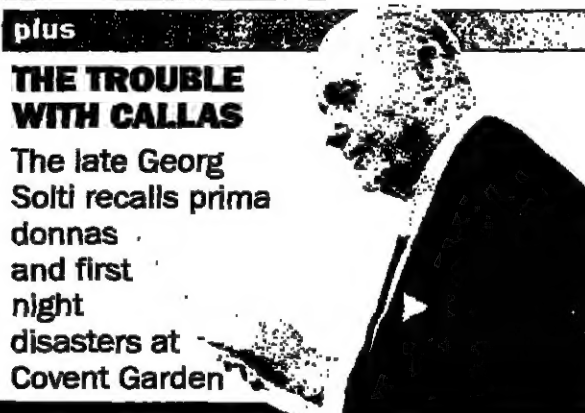


WEEKEND



How to drink and live a healthy life

Dr Thomas' prescription for wise drinking



THE TROUBLE WITH CALLAS

The late Georg Solti recalls prima donnas and first night disasters at Covent Garden

Zinfandel?

Didn't we see one on Safari?



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Unionists fear IRA move is aimed at them

AT LEAST four theories surfaced in Belfast yesterday to explain the extraordinary timing of the IRA's apparent rejection of the route to peace in the republican newspaper, *An Phoblacht*.

The Sinn Féin leadership may have been trying to appease rebellious hardliners after Gerry Adams's adoption of the Mitchell principles of democracy and non-violence two days earlier. It may have been seeking to ensure that tomorrow's meeting of the Ulster Unionist Party executive decides not to join full-scale peace negotiations beginning on Monday. The IRA may have ordered its political wing to publish the interview. Or the terrorists may simply have been reminding the world on the eve of the negotiations that they have not gone away.

Many Unionists favour the theory that, despite all Sinn Féin's appeals to the UUP to join the talks, it really does not want them at the table. The other two Unionist parties are boycotting the talks, and without the UUP the republicans may feel that the British and Irish Governments might impose a settlement more likely to lead to their goal of a united Ireland.

"The republicans' strategy is ultimately for some kind of imposed settlement," said Henry Patterson, Professor of Politics at the University of



Martin Fletcher looks at the possible reasons behind the terrorists' decision to throw the peace process into chaos

Ulster, who is about to publish a history of the IRA called *The Politics of Illusion*. "They tend to believe that, in the broader Protestant community, there's a constituency that will tolerate a move towards joint sovereignty for the sake of peace."

The Sinn Féin leadership could have been reassuring hardliners in a divided republican movement that its espousal of the Mitchell principles was meaningless. *An Phoblacht* has been controlled by Mr Adams's allies since 1979 and has long been used to signal shifts in strategy. It is inconceivable that he was unaware of the interview, which was trumpeted across the front page and faxed to news organisations, or that a man so shrewd could not have realised its impact.

Supporting the idea that the IRA effectively ordered its political wing to publish the interview was the evident discomfort of the Sinn Féin spokesmen called on to defend it. The interview undermined the newspaper's own editorial, which said that by avoiding talks, Unionists would jeopardise "the best chance of peace this country has seen in many generations". A source close to Sinn Féin suggested the party leadership was unhappy about the timing because it had switched media attention away from the UUP's big decision and onto Sinn Féin at a crucial moment.

Dr Patterson said it would have been "politically impossible" for Sinn Féin to have refused the article if the IRA insisted because "you would be talking about an effective split".

Paul Bew, Professor of Politics at Queens University, saw the interview as a direct rebuff to Tony Blair's declaration on Monday that the Government would hold Sinn Féin rigidly to the Mitchell principles. "If they are locked into the process as defined by Mitchell they are trapped. They have therefore to indicate that they are not playing by the rules of the game."

Michael Mac Donncha, *An Phoblacht*'s editor, would cast no light on the mystery. He declined to comment, referring all questions to the Sinn Féin press office.



Mary Robinson at her presidential home in Dublin

Robinson bows out as she began

By AUDREY MAGEE

MARY ROBINSON ends her seven-year term as President of the Irish Republic today as she began — looking after the less fortunate.

The President will open a housing project for the homeless in Dublin before returning to Aras an Uachtaráin, the presidential home in Phoenix Park, to sign her letters of resignation. She will then fly to Geneva to take up her new position as United Nations Human Rights Commissioner.

Mrs Robinson's seven-year term was not without its trials, but to community, women's and human rights groups she is irreplaceable. They believe she fulfilled the promise she made in her 1990 inaugural speech when she said she would open the doors of the presidential home to the marginalised and deprived in society.

Lorna Siggins, author of an unofficial biography launched in Dublin last night, said she kept her promises at a time of great social change in Ireland and rapid economic growth.

Mrs Robinson, 52, moved easily between local, national and international issues, highlighting the plight of famine-stricken Somalia and the chaos of Rwanda. She was as comfortable among the Protestant women of Belfast's Loyalist Shankill Road as she was with the Queen during her visit to London.



Clark: Tory history

'Predicting death of Princess was creepy'

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

ALAN CLARK spoke yesterday of his horror at hearing of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, three weeks after he had predicted it.

Mr Clark, MP for Kensington and Chelsea, wrote an article in *The Spectator* last month in which he said the death of the Labour MP Gordon McMaster and the suicide of Lady Green and Lady Cathness were directly related to press harassment and the Princess was the "ultimate trophy".

He heard the news of her death when he arrived back from a fishing trip in Scotland. "I was horrified when I heard the news. It was very, very creepy. To come within three weeks of predicting it was very creepy," he said, but added: "I don't see why I should feel terrible about it. It's a fairly medieval precept to believe that people who predict things actually cause them to happen."

At the time he had been furious that Frank Johnson, Editor of *The Spectator*, had written the Princess into the copy by name. "It was obvious who I meant but it was monstrous to do that."

Mr Clark was speaking at the launch of his television series on the history of the Conservative Party, *Amid the grandeur of the Carlton Club* ("a sort of Tory Party works canteen" as he put it). Mr Clark was determined to keep on his academic hat at a screening of the first episode of his four-part series, *Alan Clark's History of the Tory Party*.

He pointed out that the final episode, covering the leadership of Margaret Thatcher and John Major, would be shown on the Sunday of the Tory party conference. The programme would clearly come as a shock to many. While he refused to reveal details he made it clear that there was no more of the adoration of Baroness Thatcher and the analysis of her sex appeal that had filled his diaries.

Instead, there would be a scholar's clinical appraisal of her place in a long history: "If you want sleaze or scandal or accusations, forget it. Don't switch on the TV or buy the book," he said.

Buying the book will be tricky. Mr Clark started work three years ago but while it had been planned to coincide with the television series he admitted yesterday that it is far from finished.

"In a sense it will never be finished," he sighed. "But it has to be. It's just that there's such a wealth of material and I want this to be a book that will be on the shelves of every university and school library."

Richard Morrison, page 31

NEWS IN BRIEF

Register will warn of failed research

A worldwide register for failed medical research will be launched in Britain today to save time, money and patients being subjected to clinical trials of treatment already known to be useless. The idea, backed by 105 medical journals around the world, came from Ian Roberts, of the Institute of Child Health in London.

The *British Medical Journal* and *The Lancet* today urge clinical investigators to publish their failures as well as their successes. Their latest editions carry forms to enable anyone who knows of an unpublished trial to send in information for an Internet site. "Researchers are three times more likely to publish their good news than their bad," Dr Roberts said.

Stalker gets life

A sex stalker who subjected women students in Glasgow's West End to a four-year reign of terror was jailed for life yesterday. Grant McCaskill, of Parkhead, Glasgow, pleaded guilty to six charges of indecent assault and a further two charges of "Peeping Tom" breach of the peace charges. Nine other sex charges were dropped.

Dentist cleared

Mark Draper, 37, a dentist of Camden Town, northwest London, was acquitted of 12 charges of indecently assaulting patients by tweaking their nipples. At his retrial at Kingston Crown Court, the jury found him not guilty on seven charges but could not agree on five others on which the prosecution offered no further evidence.

Orimulsion off

National Power abandoned plans to use orimulsion — dubbed the world's filthiest fuel. The company planned to import and burn up to 6 million tonnes of the Venezuelan fuel in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, creating 1,600 jobs. Environmentalists said an orimulsion spillage would be more difficult to clean than crude oil.

Faithful unite

The first purpose-built school for Anglicans and Roman Catholics in England opened yesterday. Emmanuel School is a tangible sign of the unity fostered on Merseyside by Bishop David Sheppard and the late Archbishop Derek Worlock. The school's emblem is a silver scallop shell with a cross, symbols of Christianity and pilgrimage.

Arsonist detained

A teenager who started 140 fires over six months was sentenced to indefinite detention yesterday. Darren Marklew, 16, of Kirby in Ashfield, got a thrill watching firefighters tackle the fires he had started. Nottingham Crown Court was told. He had pleaded guilty to an earlier hearing to arson with reckless disregard for life.

Biting the bullet

A batch of 34,000 plastic rounds used by security forces in Ulster has been withdrawn as too heavy, three months after an earlier batch was withdrawn. Inspection procedures have been introduced to ensure that plastic rounds made in current and future contracts conform exactly to specification, said the Ministry of Defence.

No change, in the terrorists' own words

THE interview in *An Phoblacht* (Republican News) is described as an assessment of the political climate by a spokesperson for the IRA leadership. Below are excerpts.

An Phoblacht: What were the key factors or changes which influenced the decision to restore the ceasefire? IRA: Our announcement of a restoration of the ceasefire did appear to catch most political commentators on the hop. But then many of these commentators regularly call it wrong, particularly with regard to our position. The key elements were

that the new British Government moved with some speed to deal with the need for all-inclusive negotiations and the new Fianna Fail-led Government in the South moved to help to put a peace process back on the rails from an Irish point of view.

The new British Government removed the precondition of decommisioning, they set a timeframe for substantive talks, they made it clear that such talks would be substantive and inclusive and that bilateral meetings would start almost immediately after any announcement of an

IRA cessation. They also gave public commitments to move on a series of confidence-building measures, including POWs, the Irish language and issues of equality of treatment. *An Phoblacht*: Sinn Féin have affirmed the Mitchell principles. Do you have a view on that?

IRA: Sinn Féin's stated commitment is to secure a peace settlement that both removes the causes of conflict and takes all the guns. British, republican, Unionist, nationalist and loyalist, out of Irish politics. The Sinn Féin position actually goes beyond

the Mitchell principles. Their affirmation of these principles is therefore quite compatible with their position.

As to the IRA's attitude to the Mitchell principles per se, well, the IRA would have problems with sections of the Mitchell principles. But then the IRA is not a participant in these talks.

An Phoblacht: Is there confusion as to the republican version of consent? IRA: Any consent requirement must be defined within the context of British withdrawal and encompass all the people of Ireland. The idea

that a minority grouping in Ireland, situated within the six counties, should have a veto over political progress in the island as a whole is anathema to republicans.

An Phoblacht: In the past the IRA have said there will be no decommisioning. Has your position changed in any way with regard to this?

IRA: No, our position on decommisioning has not changed in any way. I don't think anyone has ever realistically expected us to agree to decommisioning this side of a political settlement.

Academy to keep Hindley portrait

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE controversial portrait of the Moors murderer Myra Hindley made from children's handprints will not be withdrawn from an exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts, it emerged yesterday. After one of the most passionate debates in memory, academicians voted against excluding it from the show.

"It was very close," said one academician, expressing despair over the outcome after the mother of one of Hindley's victims had begged the Academy to withdraw it.

The issue of whether a bastion of tradition should have staged an exhibition featuring blood, dismembered limbs and the Hindley portrait ensured that the debate lasted almost three hours. An official announcement will be made on Tuesday.

About 40 of the 90 RAs attended the general assembly meeting behind closed

doors in Burlington House. One of them later expressed surprise that they had seemed so equally divided. Most of the discussion centred on the Hindley portrait by Marcus Harvey.

Works loaned to the exhibition, called *Sensation*, which opens on September 18, have been loaned by Charles Saatchi, the country's most prominent collector of contemporary art.

Old school academicians have been outraged by the inclusion of sculptures such as the Chapman brothers' dismembered, bloody limbs, torso and head of a mutilated corpse. Among the most fervent critics is Peter Coker, who earlier called for the resignation of Philip Dowson, the academy's president. David Gordon, the secretary, and Norman Rosenthal, the exhibitions secretary,

Richard Morrison, page 31

Prescott urges Wales to give convincing vote for assembly

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, last night appealed to the Welsh people to vote "Yes" in next week's referendum on the creation of a Welsh assembly.

The Government is confident that a convincing vote in Scotland on devolution will boost support for a Welsh Assembly, and Mr Prescott last night told the Welsh that they too should vote for their own identity and voice.

At a rally of 700 supporters of a Welsh assembly, in Llantrisant, near Cardiff, he led the Government's attempt to galvanise the Welsh vote amid some concern that the result could be narrow and that the turnout low.

In a rousing speech Mr Prescott dismissed notions that devolution was about the break-up of the UK but about

bringing power to the people. He said the issue was "not one of Wales versus England in a frenzy of naked nationalism", but about accountability. The Government wanted accountability for the English regions too, he said; for people to be closer to the decisions which affect their daily lives.

He made a special plea for people to go out to vote on "this crucial debate" and warned: "Don't let those voices carping from the sidelines claim any satisfaction from a low turnout. This referendum is about a democratic assembly — every democrat has a responsibility to vote."

He also appeared to answer some of the criticisms of Welsh Labour MPs over devolution and said an assembly would end the quagmire of Wales and that his intention

was for the English regions also to benefit from decentralisation.

The crowd were entertained by a 1960s rock and roll band with Kim Howells, the junior Education and Employment Minister, and MP for Pontypridd, acting as master of ceremonies.

Mr Prescott's visit to Wales yesterday triggered the final build-up for campaigners in advance of the referendum vote next Thursday. Tony Blair is expected next week as well as other Cabinet ministers. Mr Prescott had to abandon plans to campaign on the ground in Wales and after the rally flew straight to Heathrow for a trip to India where he will represent the Government at the funeral of Mother Teresa.

Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Democrat leader, at a rally in Llanelli last night also urged the Welsh to join the Scots in a blazing trail of political reform.

Ron Davies, Welsh Secretary, earlier yesterday attempted to clarify the future relations for Wales with the European Community after Denzil Davies, one of the Welsh Labour MPs critical of the assembly proposals, had suggested that in future Wales would have no voice in European economic and agricultural negotiations.

The Welsh Secretary quashed claims that Wales would have no access to the Council of Ministers if an assembly took over the role of the Welsh Office and suggested that members would be able to take part in negotiations on policy at all levels.

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BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

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150 مائة و خمسة

EMBER 12 1997

Shelley
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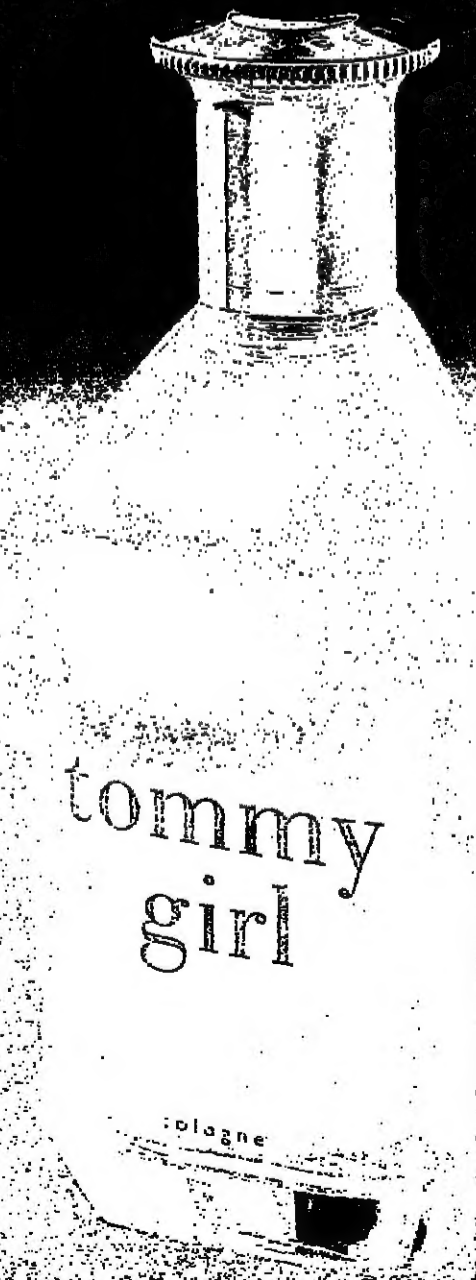
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tommy girl

a sensation of independence



Photographers' lawyers want charges dropped

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

LAWYERS for the photographers who were pursuing Diana, Princess of Wales when her car crashed called yesterday for the manslaughter charges against them to be dropped after the confirmation that the chauffeur was unfit to drive.

In the past 48 hours the focus of the French judicial investigation has shifted from the paparazzi to Henri Paul, the deputy security director of the Paris Ritz, who was allowed to drive the car despite having drunk a large quantity of alcohol and taken powerful drugs. It was disclosed on Tuesday that

tests on M Paul's body had found traces of the anti-depressant Prozac and the sedative tiapride, a drug most often used to treat chronic alcoholics. Yesterday *Le Parisien* newspaper reported that some members of the Ritz staff "knew about this treatment" and "had just warned the management about it".

Since the latest findings, investigators have interviewed more than 30 employees at the Ritz, owned by Mohamed Al Fayed. If it can be proved that the management of the hotel was aware of M Paul's intoxicated state, or knew that he may have had a drink problem, they could face prosecution for negligence or endangering life. Lawyers representing the nine

photographers and one motorcycle rider placed under investigation last week said they believed that the men would not face prosecution after the latest tests, although they added that they did not expect that the charges would be dropped immediately.

Jean-Louis Pelletier, lawyer for one of the photographers, said: "Alcohol, antidepressants, excessive speed — in any other case than this, the driver, if he had survived, would have been prosecuted, punished, and punished severely."

The photographers say that they were some distance behind the car when it crashed. While the most serious charge of manslaughter appears likely to be dropped, they

may still face the lesser charge of "failing to help persons in danger".

One unnamed Ritz employee, who has been interviewed by police, told *Libération* newspaper that he had seen M Paul drink two glasses of pastis in one of the hotel bars before he got behind the wheel of the Mercedes limousine.

Even if M Paul successfully masked his intoxication on the night of the crash, there are still unanswered questions over whether Ritz security staff, responsible for protecting and driving the Princess and her boyfriend, Dodi Fayed, were given regular health checks.

Michael Cole, Mr Al Fayed's spokesman, insisted that had M Paul given "any hint of being an alcoholic he would have been summarily dismissed". The family of M Paul and the Al Fayed have called for another post-mortem examination. Giselle Paul, the driver's mother, denied that he was an alcoholic or suffered from depression. "Can one imagine that the Princess of Wales and Dodi Fayed would have agreed to get into a car driven by someone who was drunk?" she said.

Police have carried out a search of M Paul's home in Paris in an effort to find out how long he had been taking Prozac and tiapride. His doctor in Paris was being interviewed by police yesterday. The initial post-mortem examination showed that M Paul had eaten no food on the night of the accident. Three blood tests indicated that he had drunk the equivalent of at least nine measures of liquor.

Jacques Langevin, a prize-winning war photographer and one of those under investigation, said that M Paul had been showing off to photographers and behaving out of character before he drove off with the couple from the back door of the Ritz. "He came several times during the evening to strut about in front of them. He was playing the show-off. It seems that usually he had a serious air."

One of Mr Al Fayed's lawyers has agreed that M Paul was in no state to drive, but yesterday he insisted that the pack of photographers was still primarily at fault. Bernard Derteville said that the Ritz bore no responsibility. "Paul took the initiative to take the wheel," he said. "Nothing in his behaviour would have led one to believe he was so saturated with drink."

Georges Kiejman, another of Mr Al Fayed's lawyers, said: "The blood test does not interest me — the chase does."

One of the magistrates in charge of the case predicted yesterday that it would take months to resolve, saying that to complete it by June of next year would be an "excellent result".

Charities lose cash to memorial fund

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING charity whose patron is the Duke of Edinburgh said yesterday that the flood of public donations to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund would do "deep and lasting" damage to other charities by diverting money away from them.

Action Research, a medical research charity for serious disabling diseases, said that the spontaneous and "euphoric" reaction of the public to the memorial fund had already led to a fall in its own income. The memorial fund has been receiving hundreds of thousands of pounds a day.

Anne Luther, Action Research's director general, said: "This could be a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul. This desire to give, to be associated with a 'suitable memorial' to Diana and the work she accomplished is understandable — we will all miss her deeply. But how many people will redirect their charity giving away from their usual and perhaps smaller chosen charities?"

In respect for the Princess, Action Research postponed a fundraising sports event planned for last Saturday in Northern Ireland. A volunteer planning to raise money in the London marathon is now giving the cash to the memorial



Earl Spencer, left, met Gordon Brown yesterday and agreed that there should be no rush into decisions on a permanent memorial to the Princess's life and work. The Chancellor, who is chairing a group that will consider ideas, said that the meeting at Downing Street had gone "very well". Lord Spencer, the Princess's brother, urged Mr Brown to hold the "utmost public

consultation" before any final decisions were made. Mr Brown had earlier said it was important to "consider what is a fitting national memorial and to listen to what the country is saying on this".

St James's Palace confirmed yesterday that the Prince of Wales had taken his sons back to school. Prince William, 15, is at Eton and Prince Harry, 12, is at Ludgrove.

fund instead, and a local fundraising event organised for its benefit is to give half the proceeds to the fund. Ms Luther said: "Several other organisations are worried about this."

Barry Brookling, chief execu-

tive of the Parkinson's Disease Society, where the Princess was patron until her divorce, said he believed that there was a finite amount of money available for charities; if people gave to the memorial fund, other charities might

suffer. "We received several donations immediately after the Princess's death from people wanting to make gifts in her memory, but they dried up as soon as the memorial fund was announced."

However, other charities believe that the growing public awareness about the extent of the Princess's commitment to charitable work may create a new climate of giving and selflessness in the long term, which could increase overall donations to charity.

A spokeswoman for Save the Children said: "We feel that, in the longer term, the spontaneous and generous response of the public could lead to a greater wish to give."

The charity, which had no formal links with the Princess, had received a number of donations in her memory. The British Red Cross, which received £250,000, said: "It may encourage people to take more interest in charities."

Elton John has refused to allow the BBC and ITN to use his rendition of *Candle in the Wind* in funeral videos, saying all the money should be given to the memorial fund. The television networks say they will make no profit, but cannot speak for retailers.

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Philip Howard, page 18
Leading article
and Letters, page 19
Caitlin Moran, page 33



Adam Hardham, a London Scout, carries away faded blooms from St James's Palace

Scouts and Guides lead flower clean-up

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

SCOUTS and Guides led volunteer helpers in Britain's most melancholy clean-up operation yesterday as they began removing the millions of blooms left in memory of the Princess.

The 11 teenagers joined by 40 members of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service and staff from the Royal Parks began their sombre task at St James's Palace. They carefully untied and dusted down the soft toys that had been tied to trees, railings and the palace gates and stored them in cardboard boxes.

The youngsters were often close to tears as they scooped up the many thousands of poems, letters and notes of condolence. At a line of tables the flowers were sorted to see which were fresh enough to go to hospitals and old people's homes. Boxes of bouquets are to be sent to half a dozen hospitals today, including Great Ormond Street for Children, which was one of the Princess's favourite causes.

David Welch, chief executive of the Royal Parks, said: "We want everyone to know it will not be rushed and we will treat each tribute in the same spirit as it was left. We reckon there are 1.5 million bouquets and as many tributes, poems and gifts so it will be six weeks at least, depending on how many more people want to leave flowers."

Those blooms that were too decayed were tipped onto Royal Parks vehicles and taken away to be made into compost for Kensington Gardens, which the Government is considering renaming after the Princess.

The operation at Kensington Palace, the Princess's former home, will not begin until next week, as many more families are expected to visit the carpet of flowers outside this weekend and leave their tributes, causing yet more travel chaos.

Tourists jailed for theft of 'souvenirs'

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

TWO Slovakian holidaymakers who stole teddy bears and flowers from outside Westminster Abbey were each jailed for 28 days yesterday.

Roger Davies, the magistrate, told Maria Rigociova, 54, and Agnesa Sihelska, 50, that the offences would not normally result in custody but he had a duty to reflect the outrage felt by the public.

The two women, who were due to return home today, had gathered 11 teddy bears, baskets of imitation flowers and candle pots as "souvenirs" for their families. They were arrested early yesterday after police officers were alerted by a passer-by.

Rigociova and Sihelska, who are both married, said they had taken the souvenirs as mementoes. They had thought the teddy bears would be thrown away.

Nazir Afzal, for the prosecution, said: "This is not far off the 18th-century offence of grave-robbing. The court is aware of the sense of revulsion felt by the public."

Philip Hill, for the defence, said that in Slovakia it was a custom for people to take mementoes from on top of graves after funerals as keepsakes and for other funerals.

The two women looked dazed as they left the court accompanied by their interpreter. They are to appeal today. On Wednesday Fabio Piras, a Sardinian, was sentenced to seven days' imprisonment for stealing a teddy bear from St James's Palace. The sentence was later reduced to a £100 fine.

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THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Soccer clubs told how to spot a winner

REPORTS BY NIGEL HAWKES AND NICK NUTTALL

FOOTBALL clubs with huge sums to spend in the transfer market should follow the lead of big business and use psychological profiling to ensure they get the right man for the job, researchers said yesterday.

The practice could help them to avoid paying millions of pounds for players who turned out to be lazy, disruptive or simply unable to fit in with their team-mates, according to George Sik, a psychologist at one of Britain's leading psychometric testing firms.

Dr Sik said that most managers were still relying on primitive methods to select players, such as reports from scouts. But the need for profiling was becoming more important with the influx of overseas players, whose personalities were largely unknown. "Obviously footballing talent is important," he said. "But as many managers say, there is not much to divide players at the top level. So temperament is very important."

Dr Sik's psychological study of 60 professional footballers has identified very different



Mr Penalty: England's Gareth Southgate

kinds of temperament. These include "Mr Penalty", the kind of player most likely to miss a crucial spot kick. "He likes to plan ahead rather than be rushed into things, is sensitive to criticism and is more pessimistic than optimistic."

Unfortunately this type is also team-spirited and will volunteer despite being totally unsuitable for the job. Asked if the profile was based on Gareth Southgate, whose

missed penalty put England out of Euro 96 in the semi-final, Dr Sik said: "You would not be far off the mark."

He also cited Chris Waddle, now manager of Burnley, who declined to take penalties after missing one in the 1990 World Cup finals. This contrasts with Stuart Pearce, who missed a penalty in the same tournament but remained optimistic and confidently scored one in a Euro 96 penalty shootout.

Dr Sik described another temperament, "Bad Boy", who could become a disruptive element on a team and a source of anger and anxiety for managers. Such a player tended to be highly talented, but lazy, and could move from club to club for millions of pounds without managers understanding why he never fitted in.

"He is also tense, pessimistic and sensitive to criticism. But crucially hates demanding and punishing exercise. Managers tend not to like people who profess openly that they do not like training. The player does not fit in."

He would not be drawn on which players fitted the "Bad Boy" profile. But pundits might point to Stan Collymore, a highly talented player who became unsettled at Nottingham Forest and spent two troubled seasons at Liverpool before moving on to Aston Villa. In just two seasons he commanded more than £15 million in transfer fees.

Dr Sik, of Saville and Holdsworth, carried out his research at clubs including Glasgow Celtic, Sheffield United and Crystal Palace. The psychologist said: "It is very apparent that the old 'Get your heads stuck in' school of management is unlikely to get good results." Big business recognised this and had for many years carried out psychological profiling of prospective employees.

50 YEARS BEHIND THE TIMES

DESPITE the rhetoric about needing to innovate or die, most companies are still 50 years behind the times, the meeting was told.

A team from Sheffield Hallam University's Institute of Work Psychology investigated 120 firms and found many had no specialist personnel staff, no proper training or human resource management, no written training strategy and a low skill level. Professor Michael West said: "Everybody

has the capacity to be creative at work but surprisingly little is done in practical terms to encourage this facility."

Within the NHS things were equally bad. "Many organisations are 50 years behind what organisational scientists are discussing," he said. "It is not enough to pay lip service to the idea of innovation without being prepared to do a fundamental review of how jobs are done."

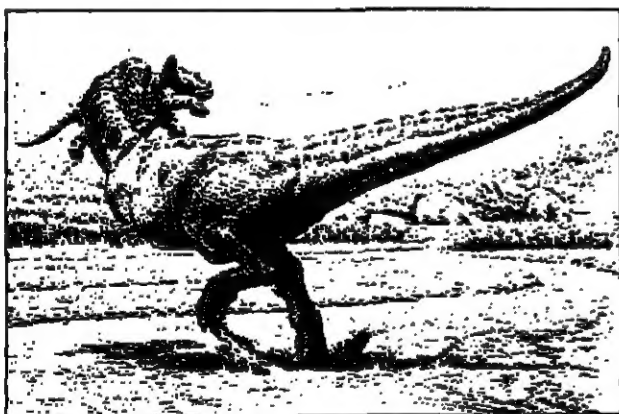
T-rex became a monster hit with shake, rattle and roll

THE dinosaur *Tyrannosaurus rex* shook its prey into bite-size pieces between its teeth, because its diminutive arms were too small to get a grip, said a leading Russian expert. The arms were just big enough to enable it to roll itself upright after losing balance, otherwise it would have fallen flat on its face.

The theory that the giant dinosaur was a "shake-feeder" - biting on the prey and rattling it apart - means it had the same technique as modern creatures which have gained similar favour as movie monsters: sharks, crocodiles, and killer whales.

Theagarten Lingham-Soliar, of the Russian Academy of Sciences, said that shake-feeding provided the best explanation of how *T-rex* was a success in dismembering other animals: "It had serrated teeth, a powerful skull and neck, but the most ridiculous anterior limbs."

"It had two choices. It couldn't hold the prey in place but, if the prey were big enough, it could grab a piece of flesh and pull. The inertia of a large prey would keep it still

Shake and snack: *Tyrannosaurus rex* on the prowl

while the flesh came away. In smaller prey, the force required to tear the flesh may be greater than the prey's inertia, so the alternative is to shake it to and fro, literally shake it apart. This places great stress on the predator's own head and neck, and requires the type of highly reinforced skull and powerful neck and body seen in *Tyrannosaurus*."

The British dinosaur expert David Norman has suggested that the heavily reinforced skull was used to ram prey

with the jaws agape, but Dr Lingham-Soliar said: "This is unlikely. It would be like a human running with his mouth open at a brick wall. With the full weight of the tyrannosaur behind it, the teeth would be exposed to serious damage. In animals that ram, there is usually some reinforcement, like the 'beak' in bottle-nosed dolphins."

Tyrannosaurus was a swift runner, capable of up to 30 mph, Dr Lingham-Soliar said.

While some had claimed it was a slow, lumbering beast which scavenged for food, comparison with modern-day ostriches shows many features in common, and ostriches are fast. Arguments against this include the suggestion that the bones of the creature were not strong enough to sustain a weight of up to seven tons at high speeds, but that was an oversimplification, he said.

"Other components such as cartilage, tendons, ligaments and the way in which these components and the separate bones of the leg are put together are essential to a real understanding." Thick pads of cartilage between the joints acted as shock-absorbers like those of cars.

The larger vegetarian dinosaurs were ten to 20 times heavier than *Tyrannosaurus*, and reliable trackways show long migrations: "If they were able to walk, tyrannosaurs were able to run."

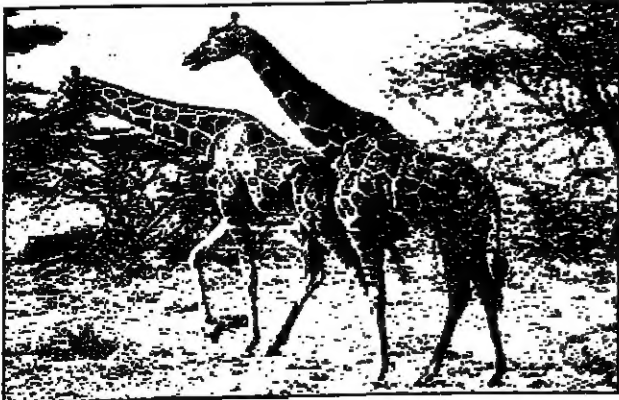
The arms might have been useful in mating, but they would also help the dinosaurs get up when they fell. "They were just big enough to stop then falling flat on their faces."

The rivals who fell by a neck

THEY look graceful and elegant, but giraffes have such high blood pressure that they are in danger of being martyrs to their own anatomy, the conference was told. The problem lies in coping with such a long neck, and it means that dinosaurs with far longer necks would never have been able to raise their heads to their full height.

The giraffe needs a huge heart to be able to pump blood to its brain, said Professor Tim Pedley, of Cambridge University. There were dinosaurs whose necks were three times longer than the giraffe's, such as *Diplodocus*, but if they had browsed in high trees, they would have needed hearts too enormous to fit in their bodies.

Professor Pedley said that, in fact, they never raised their necks aloft, but used them to dip their heads under water



Giant clues to past: giraffes have high blood pressure

to graze on the bottom of rivers and lakes. "If they raised their heads, they would have fainted."

The giraffe's heart was 2.3 per cent of total body mass, he said, compared with only 0.5 per cent for human beings. Their central arterial

blood pressure was 250mm of mercury, compared with 100mm in other mammals, including human beings. That means that pressure at the giraffe's feet was a remarkable 400mm. To prevent this causing swollen ankles, the giraffe had very tight skin

around its feet, the equivalent of support stockings.

Another way of easing the problem would be if blood flow in the giraffe's neck was controlled by a siphon, as had been suggested. Then the demand on the heart would be much less. But Professor Pedley demonstrated that this could not be true. If it were, at the point where the jugular vein emerged from the skull, its pressure would be lower than atmospheric. Since the vein is flexible, it would collapse, preventing any flow.

Measurements had shown that the jugular vein pressure in giraffes is greater than atmospheric, and does not decrease with height, as it would if a siphon were operating.

So, if the animal is going to browse in high trees, it has no recourse other than to have a very powerful heart.



George Sik after his lecture on how football can benefit from psychological profiling

Virtual reality pathway to safer surgery

A VIRTUAL reality image is to be used to lessen the risk of operations for patients and medical staff. The three-dimensional picture of the patient's body will guide the surgeon's instruments.

The method will first be used to repair aneurysms, weaknesses in the aorta which can burst with fatal results if untreated. The repair can be made using keyhole surgery, avoiding the trauma of opening the chest. But the patient has to be X-rayed on the operating table, exposing everyone in the theatre to regular doses of radiation.

Professor Peter Bell, of the University of Leicester, told the meeting that the new technique, developed with Gus Alushi of University College London, required only one X-ray by a body scanner before the operation.

This was used to create a screen image of the topography of the body and the position of the aneurysm. The aneurysm can be several inches long and is repaired by inserting a stent, a fine metal mesh which reinforces the weak point.

Within a year, surgeons at Leicester Royal Infirmary will be able to guide the stent into position by watching the 3D image. The stent will be inserted through a small incision in the groin, and the position at any moment mapped by sensors and superimposed on the virtual image of the patient.

Professor Bell said the main advantage would be to reduce radiation exposure, but the operation could also be cheaper and more accurate. The first trials of the image system will be during conventional open-chest operations.

A laser scanner that can make 3D images of the body in seconds was demonstrated at the meeting by John Baxtle, the Science Minister. A black and white map of his face was produced by the device, developed by Duncan Hynd Associates and 3D Scanners with Surrey University.

The scanner was designed to help to produce better-fitting artificial limbs and body parts. It can also help to check healing of wounds, and may be used to direct radiotherapy more effectively.



Tutankhamun

Ancient Egypt had modern problems

MODERN man has much in common with the Ancient Egyptians. A study of mummies has found that the pharaohs and noble men and women of Egypt not only dyed their hair and pierced their ears, but often died from ailments that plague us.

Ron Smith, a chemist and Egyptologist at Cambridge University, told the British Association: "Everyone thinks heart disease is a result of a modern lifestyle. But the Ancient Egyptians suffered from the same diseases as us, including a lot of heart disease."

The Pharaoh Merneptah died from a massive heart attack. Lung disease, due to sand rather than smoking, and leprosy were other causes of death. "You think of leprosy as more at the time of Christ," Dr Smith said.

The mummies also show ear-piercing and blond and reddish-dyed hair from bleaching and henna-based compounds. If someone survived birth, war and famine, he or she could expect to live until the age of 36.

Embalming was a process of desiccation akin to freeze-drying. Dr Smith said. Embalmers were trying to mimic the extraordinary preservation powers of a shallow sandy grave by treating the body with a mineral rich in sodium carbonate.

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Angela Eagle plans to make public appearances with her partner, although "it won't be in the near future"

Minister 'vindicated' by lesbian admission

Angela Eagle tells Polly Newton she is delighted by the response to her decision to come out

ANGELA EAGLE, the junior minister who has come out as a lesbian, said yesterday that she had been delighted by the "incredibly positive" response.

Miss Eagle, an Environment Minister, said she had suffered some anxiety since speaking about her sexuality for the first time in a newspaper interview at the beginning of the week. "Obviously there is a little bit of stress when you are contemplating something like this, coming out. At least, so far, the optimistic side of my nature has been vindicated, which I am extremely happy about. I hope it continues."

Her decision to come out as a lesbian — which makes her the first senior politician in Britain to do so — was praised by her twin sister, Maria, who was elected Labour MP for Liverpool, Garston in May. She said: "This is something I have known about for a very long time and I have always been supportive of her. She is very brave," she said. "Angela is a great MP and a great sister. I don't think it is a big deal."

Miss Eagle, 36, who became MP for Wallasey in 1992,

issued a statement thanking her constituents for their expressions of support: "Although a new aspect of my life has been made more widely known, I have not changed. I should like to reassure my constituents that I shall be working as hard on their behalf as I have always done."

Her decision to come out as a lesbian — which makes her the first senior politician in Britain to do so — was praised by her twin sister, Maria, who was elected Labour MP for Liverpool, Garston in May. She said: "This is something I have known about for a very long time and I have always been supportive of her. She is very brave," she said. "Angela is a great MP and a great sister. I don't think it is a big deal."

Miss Eagle, 36, who became MP for Wallasey in 1992,

nothing would change. "We already knew about this and I think she has shown great courage. I feel her constituents and the public will only respect and admire her openness. After all, this is the 1990s, not the 1890s."

In a statement, Mr Prout acknowledged that the disclosure might cause initial shock, but said he hoped that the MP would be allowed to carry out her duties without prejudice. He said he did not believe there had been any particular reason for Miss Eagle to come out now. "It was always just a matter of time and now felt right."

In her interview with *The Independent*, Miss Eagle said she had decided to speak openly about her sexuality for the first time in order to get to grips fully with her ministerial job. "Now I am at the stage

where I need to get things sorted so I can just concentrate on my work."

There was support for Miss Eagle from OutRage, the homosexual rights group which described her decision as courageous and positive. Peter Tatchell, from the group, said: "People admire honesty in public life and Angela's openness will win her a lot of respect and support. We hope more gay MPs will follow her splendid example."

He claimed that around 60 MPs were either lesbian, gay or bisexual. "Some hold senior positions in the three main parties. There is no reason why they should remain secret about their sexuality. That only fuels the idea that there is something shameful about being gay."

"The fear of coming out is far worse than the consequences. It certainly has not damaged the career of Chris Smith MP, who came out in 1984 and is now the Secretary for Culture, Media and Sport."

Additional reporting by Russell Jenkins

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Survey shows 8m adults are poor readers

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MORE than one adult in five is a poor reader, according to a survey published yesterday which suggests that standards of literacy in Britain are lower than previously believed.

The first national survey to use a random sample of working-age adults suggests nearly eight million people have weak reading skills. An even larger number struggle with basic mathematics.

A sample of 3,800 people aged 16 to 65 was tested by the Office for National Statistics. The results showed that 22 per cent could not make an accurate comparison of two pieces of written information while 25 per cent were unable to do simple sums using numbers found in a text.

Those aged over 45 showed the lowest level of literacy. Women and men were equally good at straightforward understanding of newspaper articles and passages of fiction, but men performed better using information from time-tables and graphs and in numerical calculations.

The study is part of a programme comparing basic skills in more than 20 countries. Although the results will not be known until next year, Britain has among the poorest records of those whose scores have already been published. Of the countries surveyed —

Britain, Germany, Poland, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and Canada — only Poland has more people over 56 at the lowest level of literacy.

In the youngest age group Sweden, Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Canada had a better record. The 17 per cent of Britons in the lowest category were exceeded only in Poland and the US. There was no significant difference between literacy standards in England and Scotland but in Wales far fewer adults reached the highest level.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, who has given priority to improving literacy and numeracy, said: "Sound literacy and numeracy skills provide the bedrock for all subsequent learning. We have appointed an advisory group on adult learning and we will be publishing a policy paper on lifelong learning before the end of the year."

Alan Wells, director of the Basic Skills Agency, said shortcomings were worse than previously thought. "This also suggests we have a greater number of people with weak reading skills than almost all the other industrialised countries in the survey."

Education page 35

Ofsted picks first council targets

SIX local authorities with the worst examination results in England will be among the first dozen to be inspected in the latest stage of the Government's drive for higher standards in schools (John O'Leary writes).

Half were chosen because they had the poorest results in GCSE and primary school tests, three were at the top of the league tables and three in the middle. Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, said the compulsory inspections would begin in January. The poor performers are Southwark and Tower Hamlets, in London, Manchester,

Sandwell, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, Kingston-upon-Thames, Bury and Surrey are the high-fliers chosen and Brent, Sunderland and Kent the middle-ranking authorities.

Announcing the details, Mr Woodhead said: "The Government's White Paper, *Excellence in Schools*, expects local education authorities to play their part in raising national school standards."

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, said: "If a local education authority does not meet the required standard, I will not hesitate to intervene."

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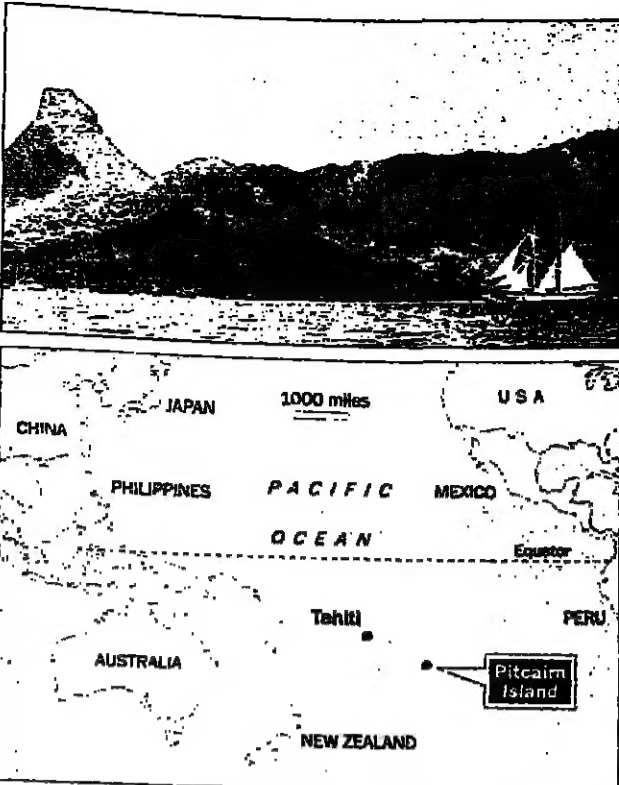
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CHANGING TIMES

WPC's crime-free paradise



WPC Gail Cox is not worried by the hardships she may face: isolation, mosquitoes, humidity and lack of amenities. "It is the chance of a lifetime and I can't wait," she said

Kent policewoman sets sail on a modernising mission to Pitcairn

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT, AND PETER BIRKETT

A POLICEMAN is swapping her squad car for the traffic-free Pacific island of Pitcairn. Gail Cox is not, however, being sent to combat a crime wave among the descendants of the *Bounty*: they have the world's lowest reported crime rate. Rather she will take modern policing to the ten-square-mile island.

WPC Cox, from Kent police, has been chosen by the Foreign Office to spend six weeks

working with the 54 inhabitants of the island and their part-time constable. The job advertisement warned that the successful applicant would have to endure some hardship and "must be prepared to survive without the amenities taken for granted in less remote locations".

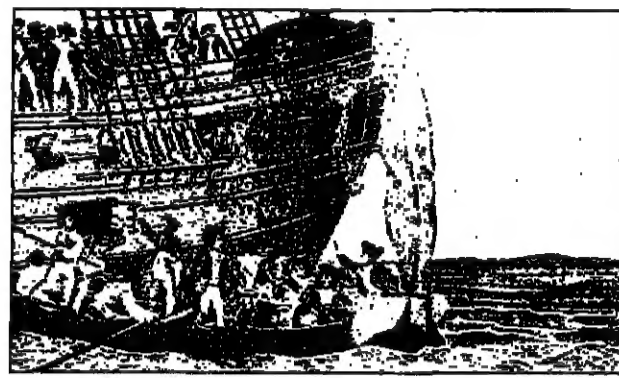
Pitcairn, 3,000 miles from the nearest landmass, has no port or airstrip. WPC Cox will have to wait for good weather

to climb down a rope ladder from a chartered yacht to a waiting boat and be ferried ashore. Once there, she will find islanders speaking an 18th-century form of English. The island suffers high humidity and is plagued by mosquitoes. There are no cars and she will have to rely on a four-wheeled motorcycle.

WPC Cox, 36, who has worked for 17 years for Kent police, normally patrols Maidstone and West Malling equipped with a personal radio linked to her station and police headquarters. On Pitcairn the only communication with the outside world is by satellite telephone.

She is not worried. "As far as I am concerned, it is the highlight of my career. It is the chance of a lifetime and I can't wait." If the attachment is a success, she could return next year.

The islanders are descended from the crew of *HMS Bounty*, who mutinied under Fletcher Christian against Captain William Bligh in 1789, and their Tahitian wives. They make a living from fishing and selling fruit or wooden curios to passing ships. Other



Captain Bligh of the *Bounty* is put into an open boat

income comes from postage stamp sales to philatelists.

The chances of serious problems are slight. WPC Cox's brief is to promote community policing and provide some training to the British dependency's resident part-time constable. She will wear her Kent uniform with specially made Pitcairn badges.

She said: "I don't know what to expect when I get out there. I don't know what the conditions are, although I have seen a video about the island. I was expecting mud huts but they are actually huts with a roof and there are shower facilities. I've done lots of outward bound courses and

be sworn in as a Pitcairn officer before beginning daily patrols of the cluster of small houses which make up the "capital", Adamstown. As well as her uniform, she will carry truncheon, handcuffs, torch and first-aid kit.

"I'm taking along all the kit I normally carry, with the exception of CS gas," she said. "They have asked me to take my normal uniform, but I'm also taking shorts and Kent police have issued me with some special hot-weather polo shirts."

The law on Pitcairn is basically the same as in Britain and is enshrined in a law book prepared by a New Zealand solicitor. "I have a copy and I have been reading up on it, but I've not yet encountered any real oddities. One of my tasks is to look at the laws of Pitcairn and see if any require amendment."

WPC Cox, a fully trained advanced police driver who normally crews Kent's Maidstone and Malling division emergency car, and who has made between 300 and 400 arrests in her career, applied for the Pitcairn posting after seeing it advertised on the notice board at Maidstone police station.

Once on the island, she will

ISLAND HOME FOR 54 PEOPLE

PITCAIRN was discovered in 1767 and named after a Royal Marine major on *HMS Swallow*, which first sighted the island. It is the centre of a small group of islands midway between New Zealand and South America. The three other islands are uninhabited.

Pitcairn is volcanic in origin. It can be reached from only one bay because of cliffs which rise to 1,100ft. The mean average temperature varies from 66F (19C) in August to 75F (24C) in February. Rainfall is about 50in a year. The climate and fertile soil produce lush tropical and semi-tropical vegetation.

The *Bounty* crew who populated the island cast Bligh adrift with 18 of his men. Despite no map and few provisions, they survived after drifting more than 3,600 miles. Bligh later became an admiral.

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Conscience preyed on road killer for 20 years

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A MAN whose conscience troubled him for 20 years walked into a police station to confess to killing a pedestrian in a hit-and-run accident, a court was told yesterday.

Alan Ralph, 46, a businessman, told police that the brakes on his car were faulty at the time. Carmarthen Crown Court was told that Helmut Henkel, 51, was killed when Ralph's car hit him near the village of Rosemarket, Dyfed, in 1978. A police hunt failed to find the driver.

Geraint Walters, for the defence, said: "The secret had a terrible effect on his life. He has suffered from psychiatric disorders and alcoholism because it was clear he could not live with his conscience."

Ralph, from Eastleigh, Hampshire, admitted causing Mr Henkel's death by reckless driving. He was put on probation for two years and disqualified from driving for 12 months.

Return the Lindisfarne gospels, says bishop

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Bishop of Durham has said he would like to see the 7th-century Lindisfarne Gospels returned from London to the North East.

The Right Rev Michael Turnbull wants the gospels, taken from Durham Cathedral by Henry VIII during the Reformation, returned there. They are currently held at the British Museum.

Bishop Turnbull said: "I believe that works of art and of historical interest are best in their places of origin. Durham Cathedral is where St Cuthbert is buried and there are many other sites in the North East to which the gospels are linked."

Earlier this year Fraser Kemp, Labour MP for Houghton and Washington East, wrote to Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, calling on him to back the campaign to return the manuscripts to the North. But Mark Fisher, the Arts Minister, has dismissed the pleas.

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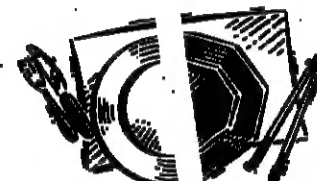
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Neo-Nazi jailed for hate-filled magazines

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE publisher of a "vile and evil" neo-Nazi magazine, which sparked race-hate campaigns against Frank Bruno's mother and Paddy Ashdown, was jailed for 21 months yesterday.

Mark Atkinson, 31, pleaded guilty at Southwark Crown Court to publishing two issues of *Stormer* for the far-right group Combat 18. His friend Robin Gray, 35, was convicted of possessing the magazines for distribution and remanded in custody pending sentence.

Sentencing Atkinson, Judge George Bathurst Norman said that in 37 years at the Bar he had "never encountered such vile outpourings of hatred and incitement to violence as revealed in these magazines". The maximum penalty of two years' imprisonment was insufficient and should be reconsidered by Parliament.

By giving the personal details of the boxer's mother, Lynette, the magazine had directed attacks at "the mother of a man who has brought nothing but credit to this country", the judge said. Dur-

ing the case Mrs Bruno, 67, a lay preacher, described receiving a letter bearing a swastika which said "Go home and die". There were abusive telephone calls and a second letter which said: "Bang. It is that easy to blow your head off."

Mrs Bruno said she could not sleep and eventually moved. More than a year later she was still too scared to go home alone in the evening.

Stormer also published the home details of Mr Ashdown, the footballer Paul Ince, the newsreader Anna Ford and the actress Vanessa Redgrave. Addresses of synagogues and Jewish businesses were given in a list called "Jew Watch" and readers invited to take action against them. The judge said one synagogue was defaced and a window broken, which brought back memories of the conduct of the Nazis in Germany in the 1930s.

Mr Ashdown's house was firebombed outside his home in Somerset last year. The judge told Atkinson: "When a politician speaks out against



Atkinson: magazine gave address of public figures

racism in his local community you target him in one issue and then you celebrate the fire-bombing of his car in the next. You give his name and address and invite his murder with the words, 'He doesn't deserve to live.'"

Atkinson, a dustman, and Gray, who stood as a National Front by-election candidate, were arrested at their home in Feltham, west London, in May

last year. Police found 500 copies of *Stormer*, which costs £1.50, ready to be sent to subscribers. Another issue of the 12-page magazine was found on computer disk.

Sasha Wass, for the prosecution, held up in court an edition with a front-page picture of Adolf Hitler. Another edition congratulated Italian Fascists on their racist taunting of Paul Ince after his move to Inter Milan.

The Labour MP Harry Cohen condemned the 21-month sentence as "derisory" and said that the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, should tell the courts to impose much tougher punishment.

Mr Cohen, MP for Leyton and Wanstead, said: "It seems to me that the courts are not taking vicious and dangerous racial abuse seriously enough. This man was guilty, in effect, of threatening people, causing them great fear and terror, and was a menace to society. He created a blight in the lives of the people he attacked, drove them out of their homes. A much more severe sentence should have been imposed."



James Ozigi with a picture of himself taken after he was attacked outside his home by a drunken gang

Drunken gang beat preacher in race attack

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A MEMBER of a drunken gang who attacked and racially abused a black preacher outside his home was jailed for 33 months at Inner London Crown Court yesterday.

Gary Dobson, 22, and other members of the gang left James Ozigi, executive secretary of the Churches Commission for Racial Justice, so badly injured that it was feared he would lose a kidney and that his sight and hearing would be impaired. When a black neighbour, Douglas Brian, went to his aid he was stabbed in the head.

Sentencing Dobson, an electrical maintenance worker from Lambeth, South London, for violent affray, the Assistant Recorder, William Kennedy, told him that he had attacked Mr Ozigi, 44, for no reason other than his colour. The judge said that the courts would heavily punish those who committed racist attacks.

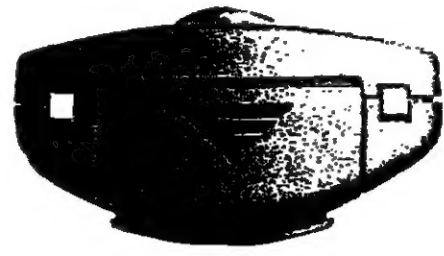
Outside the court, Mr Ozigi, who is also general secretary of the Council of African and Caribbean Churches in the United Kingdom, said he still suffered nightmares over the attack. He had passed out during the attack and when he came to, his ten-year-old son

was being hit after coming to his aid. "It was a terrifying experience," he felt that Dobson should have been given a longer sentence and questioned why the police had not acted against alleged members of the gang named by Dobson during the trial.

Earlier, the court was told that Dobson, convicted last month after a four-day trial, was part of a group of men who began an argument outside the Ozigis' home, in August 1995, after leaving a pub in Bermondsey, southeast London. When Mr Ozigi's wife, Elizabeth, 41, a mother of four, went to investigate, she was abused, and Mr Ozigi went to defend her.

He was racially insulted and pulled into the street by five white men who punched and kicked him. He was streaming with blood, and when Mr Brian went to his aid he was beaten as well.

After the case Detective Constable Garry Harding said that reports on two of the men named by Dobson during the trial had been sent to the Crown Prosecution Service for a decision on action. A third man has fled abroad and a fifth man has been acquitted.



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Jews used terrorism too, says Mrs Rabin

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK RABIN'S widow has challenged Israel's policy of blaming Yasser Arafat for Islamic terrorism, saying yesterday that Jews were once terrorists and the British could not stop them.

Leah Rabin made the admission, a difficult one for most Israelis, and accused Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, of doing "everything against" peace. She said Mr Netanyahu was trying to humiliate the President of the Palestinian Authority. "He [Arafat] feels very much under pressure, and justifiably. Our Government has tried to bring him to his knees," she said.

Her stand is in line with the thinking of Palestinian analysts and some left-wing Israelis, who argue that Mr Arafat can do little in the war against terror while Mr Netanyahu's policies continue to cause such ill feeling in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Mrs Rabin said, shortly before meeting Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State: "I have doubt about how much [Palestinian] terrorism can be uprooted. We were also terrorists once and they didn't uproot us and we went on dealing in terrorist activities. Despite all the efforts of the

British Army, we went on with terrorism." Mrs Rabin was referring to the period after 1917 when Britain conquered what was then known as Palestine and ruled the area until the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948. During this turbulent era, and especially after the Second World War, the British fought Arab and Jewish militants alike.

A leading figure in the Jewish underground movement was Menachem Begin, later Prime Minister. In 1946, he got approval from his colleagues to blow up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, which then housed part of the British administration. The blast killed 28 Britons, 41 Arabs, 17 Jews and five others. Mr Begin outraged families of other victims when he said he mourned only the Jews.

The episode proved decisive in convincing the British authorities to leave the area. Before pulling its troops out, Britain had tried to crack down on Jewish extremists through floggings and executions. The Jewish underground retaliated by kidnapping British soldiers and delivering the same punishments. Two British sergeants were hanged on July 29, 1947, by Jewish extremists

and British floggings and executions stopped.

Mrs Rabin clearly believes that Israelis today need to learn from this period of history and adopt a different approach. She quoted a favourite phrase of her husband: "Yitzhak would say, 'We will make peace as if there is no terrorism. We will fight terrorism as if we are not taking steps towards peace.' That must be the approach."

In November 1995, her husband was shot dead by a Jewish extremist opposed to the Government's decision to hand land to the Palestinians in exchange for peace. Yesterday, she accompanied Ms Albright on a visit to his grave in Jerusalem.

Friend's plea: Margalit Har Shefi, 21, a friend of Rabin's assassin, said yesterday that her statements to the police should be rejected because she had been deprived of sleep and barred from consulting a lawyer. She has pleaded not guilty to charges that she failed to report Yigal Amir's plan to kill the Prime Minister. Her trial, which began in March, resumed yesterday in Tel Aviv. (AP)

Letters, page 19



Leah Rabin, left, and Madeleine Albright after the US Secretary of State laid a wreath yesterday at the grave of Yitzhak Rabin

Albright lectures Palestinians and Israel on peace

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN RAMALLAH

MADELINE ALBRIGHT set foot for the first time in the Israeli-blockaded West Bank yesterday and admonished a sullen-looking Yasser Arafat for his failure to root out the terrorists who have killed 20 Israelis in five weeks.

Attempting later to balance her criticism, the US Secretary of State urged Israel to take a "time-out" from settlement activity and other unilateral actions that have angered Palestinians. "Israel should refrain from unilateral acts, including what Palestinians perceive as the provocative expansion of settlements, land confiscation, home demolitions, and confiscation of IDs," she said in a speech to Israeli high-school students.

Ms Albright told the Palestinian leader that his latest pledge to fight terrorism "100 per cent" would be monitored by the United States to see if it was carried out "over a sustained period".

Mr Arafat, dressed in his trademark military fatigues and facing 250 journalists, had his carpeting whispered

into his ear by a translator. "The truth is terror threatens the pursuit of peace, terror threatens the Palestinian Authority, and terror threatens the hopes of the Palestinian people," Ms Albright said.

"To be effective, the Palestinian Authority fight must be comprehensive and relentless and sustained. It cannot be pursued only when it is convenient to do so. As Chairman Arafat knows, fighting terror is a 24-hour-a-day job."

Since the triple suicide attack in a Jerusalem street last week, Palestinian police have rounded up more than 100 suspected Islamic militants. But Israeli officials have dismissed the effort as window-dressing designed to appease Ms Albright.

Paris: Hubert Vedrine, the French Foreign Minister, launched a blistering attack on what he called Israel's "catastrophic" policies (Ben Macintyre writes). The peace process was broken, and the Israeli Government's attitude was undermining the credibility of Mr Arafat, he said.

Chinese 'capitalism' will embrace share deals in state firms

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BEIJING

THE fifteenth congress of the Chinese Communist Party, which opens in Beijing today, will be largely unscripted, given that party chiefs have apparently failed to reach a consensus on crucial leadership changes, diplomats say.

"China has no gods now," Wang Shan, author of a book on China's political future, told foreign correspondents this week. "Mao was a god, Deng Xiaoping was a god, but now there are none." This means, in essence, that President Jiang Zemin, 71, does not exercise the kind of authority his predecessors did as he enters a crucial week, during which he will outline to 2,048 party delegates the nation's course for the next five years.

Envoys say the biggest issue, and one requiring some fancy ideological and economic footwork, will be an innovative privatisation scheme for the reforming of failing state-owned enterprises without causing vast unemployment — one of the concerns most troubling to China's 1.2 billion people.

The party conclave, which is held every five years, will aim to continue China's free-market economic reforms, what Deng called "socialism with Chinese characteristics".

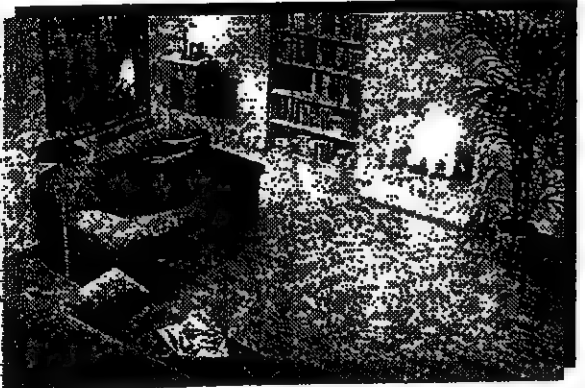
with what amounts to drastic economic restructuring — in effect, another step towards capitalism. Selling shares in reformed enterprises to the public is apparently the principal means of achieving this, though care will be taken not to call it privatisation. Xu Guangchun, the congress spokesman, said last night that the key was who controls the majority of shares, indicating the State will continue to have that power.

A recent flurry of outspoken calls for political reform — not from dissidents but economists and political scientists inside the party — will not result in anything like the democratic system of Western countries, Mr Xu indicated. "I would like to make this point here, that we do not copy Western democracy."

Another key issue will be corruption. It was announced this week that Chen Xitong, a former high-ranking Communist leader and a former Mayor of Beijing, had been expelled from the party and may face trial over corruption. Some doubt whether he will ever appear in court, however, because — as one Western envoy said — "he knows too much about the rest of the leadership".

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Officers rebuked for sex scandals at US Army base

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE American Army, beset with sex scandals, responded yesterday by extending basic training to teach recruits ethics and values.

It also sent letters of reprimand, in effect ending their careers, to a major-general and half a dozen senior officers at the training base at Aberdeen, north of Washington, where 12 drill sergeants were charged with sex crimes against young women soldiers. The Aberdeen scandal led to the Army setting up a sexual harassment hotline that logged more than 8,000 calls from around the world and led to 341 criminal investigations, of which 47 are still pending.

The episodes showed that integration of men and women, particularly at the training level, was not working. At the same time, the air force had its problems with adultery, as highlighted by the case of Kelly Flinn, the first female B52 pilot, who was forced to resign. The Navy, too, has struggled with sexual problems, beginning with the Tailhook affair which arose from a convention of fighter pilots where women were assaulted.

An army panel reported yesterday on its ten-month study. It found that the service had failed to screen male drill sergeants adequately and that not enough research had been done on their backgrounds to

determine whether they had criminal records or other problems that might have signalled trouble.

President Clinton's Army Secretary, Togo West, decided not to segregate men from women, who make up a fifth of recruits, during training, but will add a ninth week for the annual intake of 70,000 recruits who undergo "boot camp", the first big change since the Vietnam War.

Throughout the training, extra classes will be given on army values and on mutual respect.

The army will ask Congress to create a position for a senior general to oversee training camps and will add 100 lieutenants to remove the burden of administration from drill sergeants. Additional chap-



Flinn: forced to resign from US Air Force

lains will be sent to the training camps so that recruits can turn to someone outside the chain of command for help and guidance.

Major-General Robert Shadley, the most senior officer reprimanded, plans to contest his punishment as unfair, a Pentagon official said. He had been praised earlier for his quick response to complaints of rape. Now he was being "hung out to dry" by the army for its widespread neglect, Susan Barnes, an advocate for women's rights in the military, said.

Some army officials had argued that he should be exonerated on the ground that he was too senior to have known about sexual goings-on under his command. Members of Congress said that the top brass had to be made more accountable.

Of the 12 drill sergeants at Aberdeen, one was convicted of rape and sentenced to 25 years in prison, four were found guilty of other sexual misconduct, four agreed to be discharged, one was cleared and two cases are pending. Courts-martial were told that the sergeants shared lists of their sexual conquests.

A captain who represented two of the drill sergeants said that proof of a corrupted command structure would have helped all the defendants and could be a ground for appeal for those found guilty.



A 3,000-year-old Olmec carving, thought to be the oldest representation of the human heart. The 7in figure formed part of an exhibit in The Art Museum at Princeton University when Gordon Bendersky, a cardiologist, realised that what he was looking at was an anatomically correct image of the heart. The artefact is thought to have come from Las Bocas in southern Mexico. The Olmecs are the

Doctor shows heart of stone

ancient predecessors of the Mayans and Aztecs. The vessel includes a pulmonary artery, an aorta and a superior vena cava. It was carved 2,500 years before Andreas Vesalius, the so-called father of anatomy, published the earliest accurate images of the heart. (AP)

Uptake weighs whether to pull plug on Web heroine

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

THE novelist John Updike, the face of American middle-class angst, will write the last instalment today for his "cybertale", a relay short story which began with a paragraph by him in July, and whose stylish baton has been taken forward each day by a host of eager literary runners.

The story, *Murder Makes the Magazine*, began on July 29, with a paragraph as polished as a guard-

man's boots and about as rich as Christmas pudding. It was vignette of vintage Updike, raising hopes of a riveting tale that would grace the Internet for weeks to come. The first sentences carried a soupon of foreboding:

"Miss Tasso Polk at ten-ten alighted from the elevator on to the olive tiles of the nineteenth floor only lightly nudged by a sense of something wrong. There had been someone strange in the elevator. She had felt it all the way up."

The story since then, alas, has not always gone up. It has often gone

down, as writers of uneven gift turned their hand to Updike's tale. Of course, the offerings have not always been bad: some have had panache; others have been clever.

Too often, they have been clever- clever, as writers strove to match the master at his game. The author, though, expresses no complaints. "It's a larkly thing to do," he said. He is intrigued, too, that after 45 days in the hands of total strangers, Miss Tasso Polk is still alive.

The promoters of the tale, amazon.com, the world's largest

online bookseller, have been inundated with offerings, sometimes receiving more than 1,000 in the space of 24 hours. The chosen author of the day has received \$1,000 (£630), a princely sum for no more than 200 words, and a rate that should make most journalists green with envy.

Updike himself received \$5,000 for his efforts, which included submitting three different "first paragraphs"; amazon.com, he says, chose the most "melodramatic" one, "dredged from my files". It was the opening to a mystery novel begun 30

years ago and abandoned as being "too slight". The *New York Times*, cementing its reputation as a sniffling killjoy, has questioned why "Mr Updike is involved in such an overly commercial enterprise".

Kay Dangaard, a spokeswoman for amazon.com, said yesterday that she had pleaded with Updike "not to kill off Miss Tasso Polk". Ms Dangaard said: "We now get letters addressed to her and callers think that I am Miss Polk." Updike has made her no promises: Miss Tasso Polk may be dead by tomorrow.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Tajik bases used to bomb Taleban

Karachi: The Taleban Islamic militia yesterday accused neighbouring Tajikistan of helping rival forces as the battle for control of the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif intensified (Zahid Hussain writes). The opposition jets which allegedly flew from Kulab airbase in Tajikistan bombed the Taleban forces 12 miles away from the battered city.

Taleban fighters who launched an offensive on Tuesday in an attempt to capture the northern opposition capital were locked in a fierce battle on the city outskirts. It is the closest the militia has moved towards the city since May when it was driven away. One report said the battle was raging around the airport, which was briefly captured by the Taleban forces on Tuesday. The fall of Mazar-i-Sharif would deal a devastating blow to the opposition alliance.

Kenyans approve reforms

Nairobi: Kenya's parliament yesterday formally adopted constitutional reforms intended to avoid bloodshed before elections expected to take place later this year. The changes provide for the repeal of laws that allow detention without trial, and approve the expansion of the electoral commission to bring in members nominated by the opposition. They also provide for equal access to state media by the opposition and President Moi's ruling Kenya African National Union.

"We saw that our country was headed for chaos and we decided to take this bold step, talk to each other, agree on changes before elections," said Jillo Falana, one of four convenors of the group which drafted the reforms. (Reuters)

Storm saves Machu Picchu

Peruvian archeologists yesterday began investigating the damage caused to the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu after a fire which has destroyed 600 hectares of forest on the mountains around the ancient citadel (Gabriella Giamini writes). They were able to start assessing the extent of damage after an unexpected rainstorm helped firefighters put out the flames which had spread from mountain to mountain around the ruins over four days. The storm, the first rain in six months, drenched the site. Local people believe the spirits of their Inca ancestors extinguished the fire.

US aircraft to 'jam' Serbs

Washington: The Pentagon is sending three EC130 aircraft to Bosnia to jam hardline Serb radio and television broadcasts at the start of the republic's municipal elections this weekend (Tom Rhodes writes). The planes can override ground broadcasts while channelling separate transmissions in their place. For a month, Serbian supporters of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader and indicted war criminal, have used the airwaves to challenge the Dayton peace accord.

Krenz set free for appeal

Berlin: Egon Krenz, 60, East Germany's last hardline communist leader, walked free from Moabit prison here pending an appeal against his conviction last month on four manslaughter charges. He was jailed for 6½ years after his 18-month trial. His victims were refugees killed as they tried to flee to the West over the Berlin Wall. Krenz was greeted at the jail gate with a kiss from his son Karsten. (Reuters)

Yacht cup attacker jailed

Auckland: Benjamin Peri Nathan, 28, a New Zealand Maori student who almost destroyed the 150-year-old America's Cup yachting trophy in Auckland with a sledgehammer, was jailed for 34 months in addition to an 18-month term he is already serving for aggravated robbery. The cup has since been repaired by London silversmiths. (Reuters)

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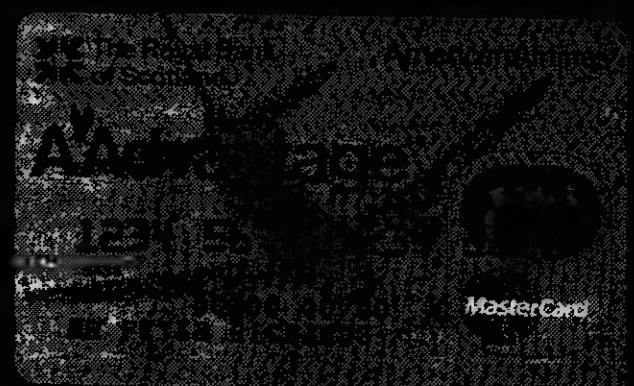


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Sisters and novices from the Missionaries of Charity rehearse hymns yesterday in Calcutta's Netaji Indoor Stadium for Mother Teresa's funeral tomorrow

Nun's lavish funeral stirs Calcutta debate

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

MOTHER TERESA's body will be taken for burial tomorrow on the same gun carriage that carried the remains of Mahatma Gandhi, father of independent India, and Jawaharlal Nehru, its first Prime Minister. More than 500 soldiers will escort the vehicle, to be pulled by a field military tractor, and there will be volleys of rifle fire over the coffin.

Questions are being asked about whether Mother Teresa, 87, would be appalled by such military pomp. Her death has raised other sensitive questions: will donations to the Missionaries of Charity plummet without her money-raising international prestige?

Is it right to bury the Roman Catholic nun at Mother House, her home, where the public will have almost no access to the grave? Should the Government spend so lavishly on the funeral of a woman who lived by a vow of poverty?

Queues outside St Thomas's Church, Calcutta, where she is lying in state in a glass casket, grew to more than a mile yesterday as the clamour to get a last glimpse increased. The army,

which formally assumed responsibility for the body yesterday — customary practice before a state funeral — initially opposed postponing the burial, which had been planned for Wednesday, five days after her death. The Sisters, however, demanded a delay on the ground that more time was needed for national and international dignitaries to reach Calcutta.

Most Indians are surprised by the length of time between Mother Teresa's death and her interment. It is customary for Hindus to be cremated quickly, and Muslims are generally buried within 24 hours. Christians in India do not normally display their dead.

Her grave will be in a room previously used for common prayers. She had wanted, and expected, to be interred at another St Thomas's — in north Calcutta — because of its custom of holding prayers round-the-clock every day of the year. Many church officials are upset at the change of plans.

Some of the nuns have complained privately, too, that the money being spent on the funeral could build several orphanages.

Manila 'faces civil war under Ramos'

ONCE the model of a modern Asian leader, President Ramos of the Philippines is now being vilified across the political and religious spectrum.

He is accused of seeking to extend his term of office beyond next June in an eerie rerun of the corrupt era of Ferdinand Marcos, whom he helped overthrow. The situation has led the country's Roman Catholic leader, Cardinal Jaime Sin, to give a warning that "there will be another Cambodia" with civil war, murders and executions.

The cardinal's bloody forecast followed a statement by President Ramos that he would submit to the will of the people if they decided to change the constitution because the country was in danger. His implication was plain: he was prepared to serve a second term.

The Philippines now faces its greatest crisis since the overthrow of Marcos by "people power" in 1986 after years of violence, corruption and circumvention of previous



Cardinal Jaime Sin, who says there will be another Cambodia in the Philippines

Fidel Ramos, left, is enraging opponents with hints that he

will find a way to stay as President,

Jonathan Mirsky reports from Manila

constitutions. The candidates for the 1998 election must be registered by November.

Mr Ramos says he is not behind the movement to alter the constitution to permit term extensions, but he is being so elusive about his intentions that the uncertainty caused another fall on the Philippine stock exchange yesterday.

"Why am I being demonised. Why am I a hate figure, sometimes even among small children?", he mused in

an interview with *The Times*. One Manila newspaper columnist believed the answer to be: "We put our President up on a pedestal and venerate him and then discover he's just a goddamned cheap liar... he prefers the sneaky deceitful procedures of rats and cockroaches."

With so little time remaining, President Ramos's genius for evasion and ambiguous assurance has provoked rage among his enemies — of

whom the greatest is Cardinal Sin. Seated in his palace yesterday, the Cardinal said: "My opposition to President Ramos is not political. It is my duty as Archbishop of Manila to guide the people so they will do their duties as citizens."

He said he had always opposed the selection of Mr Ramos for the presidency by his predecessor, Corason Aquino. "I think she regrets this now... I believe he [Ramos] knew the identity of the assassin of her husband."

Benigno Aquino was Marcos's most dangerous opponent, whose still unsolved murder in 1983 led to the overthrow of the former President and the election of Mrs Aquino. "That murder was never properly investigated," added the Cardinal.

The man whom Mr Ramos fears is his Vice-President, Joseph "Erap" Estrada, the John Wayne of the Philippines, who for 40 years has starred in moralistic shootouts with dozens of gangsters and rapists. In a badly educated

population which reads and views little news but loves good-guy action films, Mr Estrada is a wildly popular man, who is favoured by most observers here to sweep to office if Mr Ramos stands down. In the 1992 election which brought him and Mr Ramos to power, Mr Estrada received two million votes

more than the President. Speaking to *The Times*, Mr Ramos said: "I'm not in favour of term extensions" — and within seconds was spelling out a new kind of people power, strictly constitutional, which permits referendums, plebiscites, petitions and constituent assemblies which could "petition for changes in

the constitution". He added: "It's not my personal future which is of moment but the national interest and the future of the Philippine people."

This modesty was overshadowed by a vision of political disorder: "We have to pick a leader who will bring the Philippines into the 21st century



Cardinal Jaime Sin: fears bloodshed and "another Cambodia" in the Philippines

ry as an efficient country. There's a lot of fierce competition out there which could unbalance us."

The protest movement against Mr Ramos is gathering pace: every day in Manila at 6pm, church bells ring and car horns blare. What is called the anti-Ramos "cha-cha-cha". On September 21, the Cardinal and Mrs Aquino — who says that some of her supporters told her when she was President to seek a second term because she was "indispensable" — will address a crowd they hope will number hundreds of thousands. They are attempting to create an atmosphere reminiscent of the one that brought down Marcos but without the confrontation between the people and the army.

In the artful way which maddens his critics, Mr Ramos says that he extends "mega-tolerance" to this demonstration, that he wanted it to happen, and that "I have instructed the police to support it".

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Russia swears to clean up language

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S parliament is planning to reintroduce Soviet-era legislation to ban swearwords from being spoken or published, in an effort to clean up the Russian language.

In a move encouraged by President Yeltsin, and welcomed by many Russians who have seen their cherished tongue battered by obscenities and invaded by foreign words, the parliamentary culture committee has decided to fight back with what amounts to censorship.

"We have a situation in Russia today where there is a completely uncontrolled use of language in the streets, in the media and in books, and it is time we did something about it," said Vladimir Semenov, who is helping to draft the new law.

Under Communist rule, swearwords and pornography were outlawed by the infamous Article 209 of the Soviet Criminal Code, which regarded any profanity as "hooliganism", an offence punishable by a sentence in a labour camp. However, since the era of glasnost and the collapse of communism, mat, the Russian term for the nation's rich vocabulary of expletives, has become commonplace in newspapers, on television and in the street.

Although it is unlikely that Soviet-era punishments will be reintroduced, it is expected that swearing in public or writing obscene words could lead to criminal prosecutions and fines.

Anatoli Baranov, an expert on expletives at the Institute of the Russian Language, said that while the reaction against swearing was understandable, the censors would have a difficult time controlling what people wrote, read and said. Some of Russia's greatest writers, such as Aleksandr Pushkin, used swearwords in their texts and today writers such as Eduard Limonov have made obscene language the hallmark of their writing style.

Mr Yeltsin has taken a personal interest in the protection of the Russian language, and last year assembled a council of experts to investigate ways of protecting the mother tongue from profanity and from the invasion of foreign words, particularly English. Earlier this year, he announced that he was considering banning the use of

foreign words in advertisements and declared that he was prepared to "fight to save our mother tongue".

Aleksandr Korzhakov, the disgraced former presidential bodyguard, revealed in a book published last month that the issue is close to the President's heart. In his account of life in the Kremlin, Mr Korzhakov said that Gennadi Burbulis, once one of Mr Yeltsin's closest aides, was sacked after drinking too much and making a rude toast at a dinner in the presence of Mr Yeltsin's wife and daughter. He claimed that Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, could not compose a sentence without using obscene words.

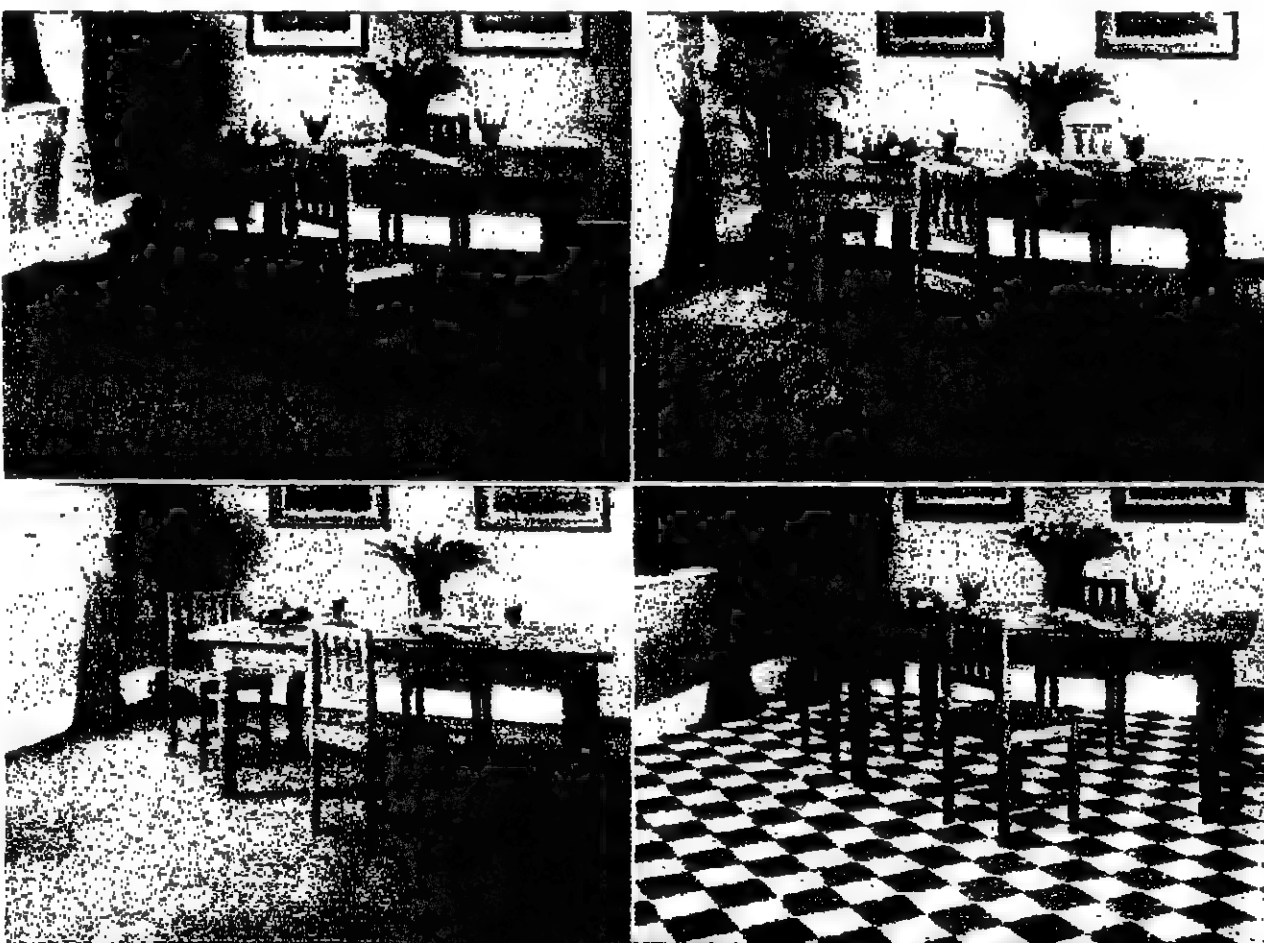
Eradicating obscenities from the Russian language could be a difficult task, since many Russians are proud of their colourful and imaginative curses, such as: *Ya zdes bolnyas, kak govno v propyubi* (I have been hanging around here like a turd in a fishing hole); or *Eyo ebui kolkhozom* (She has had the whole collective farm). Avoiding them is difficult unless you avoid military service, public transport and drinking vodka.



President Chirac hailed Stéphane Grappelli, 89, as "the greatest jazz violinist in the world" yesterday as he made him a Commander of the Legion of Honour. Charles Aznavour, the French crooner, and Nana Mouskouri, the Greek singer, were also honoured

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Moscow's Sinatra tunes in to politics

BY RICHARD BEESTON

IOSIF KOBZON, the Russian Frank Sinatra, famed for his singing voice and notorious for his alleged links to the mafia, retired from the stage last night when he gave his final performance in Moscow on his 60th birthday.

After a career spanning 40 years and 3,000 songs, the Communist-era crooner, still beloved across the former Soviet Union, said farewell to adoring fans at the Rossiya Hotel after deciding to embark on a new life in politics.

"It was a difficult decision, but I wanted to stop singing while there was still life in me," he said. "I can do more for this country when I am in a position of power."

He has set his sights on the Duma, the lower house of parliament, and his first attempt at gaining office will come this weekend, at a by-election in the Siberian constituency of Aginsky-Buryat. Kobzon says he wants to run for parliament to defend citizens and to raise the level of the nation's spiritual life. Critics, however, suspect the move may have more to do with the benefits that come with a parliamentary seat, not least immunity from prosecution.

Sicily to have bridge link with mainland

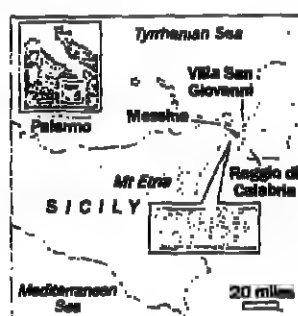
FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME AND FRANCESCO BONGARRA IN PALERMO

THE Italian Government is to approve the building of a gigantic £3 billion single-span suspension bridge linking Sicily to the Italian mainland, officials said yesterday.

"The Government of Romano Prodi is really behind this project, and it seems it has approved it," said Nino Calarco, head of the state-run Stretto di Messina authority, Aurelio Misi, a senior official at the Ministry of Public Works in Rome, said the bridge would be operational by the autumn of 2006.

La Repubblica reported that the bridge design had passed all technical tests, and work was expected to begin in 18 months. The bridge will be more than two miles long and 195ft wide, supported by 1,200ft-high towers at either end. It will carry road and rail traffic, with planners anticipating 200 trains a day and a two-way flow of 9,000 vehicles an hour on a 12-lane carriageway.

The Romans first conceived the idea of linking the mainland and Sicily to safeguard the island in their struggle with Carthage. In the 19th century, the idea was revived by Garibaldi, the Italian patriot and military leader, as part of his campaign for the unification of Italy. But modern



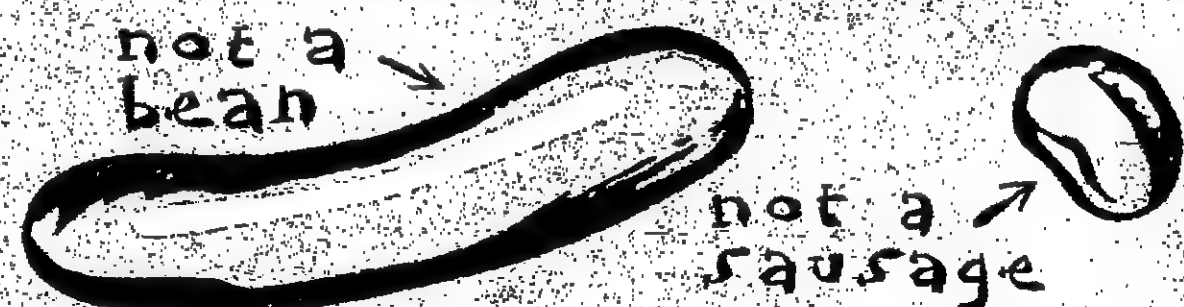
feasibility studies were only undertaken in the 1970s, and Sicilians use "a bridge across the straits" as a figure of speech for an unattainable dream.

Environmental campaigners have argued that the volcanic rock on both sides of the Straits of Messina is unsuitable for such a huge project. Lega Ambiente, the leading environmental group, said the area was notorious for earthquakes and tidal waves. It is the setting in Homer's *Odyssey* of the twin hazards of Scylla and Charybdis - thought to refer to whirlpools and jagged rocks. In 1908 Messina was levelled by an earthquake which killed 84,000 people and made the shoreline sink by 18ins overnight.

But Signor Misi said the planners, working with experts from Europe, Japan and America, had taken local conditions into account and the bridge would be built to withstand winds of more than 125mph, earthquakes of up to 7.1 on the Richter scale and even nuclear explosions. A final decision will be taken by the Italian Cabinet on October 10. The Government is cutting public spending to trim the budget deficit and to meet the criteria for the European single currency. But Signor Calarco said road tolls would recoup much of the cost, and the Italian authorities hoped to obtain European funding for the project as linking Sicily to the mainland was "of European significance".

Next month, Signor Misi will outline the project to the USA-Italy Foundation in Washington in a bid to obtain backing from Italian-American "banks, insurance companies and pension funds", a move which has led some Sicilians to joke that the bridge will be "paid for by the Mafia". At present, goods and passengers have to cross the straits by ferries run by Italian state railways. But the ferries operate at a loss, and there are reports that private companies may take over the route as early as next year.

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Yeltsin orders inquiry into Mir failures

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday demanded a full inquiry into the series of accidents and malfunctions aboard the Mir space station over the past three months, which began in June when an unmanned cargo craft punched a hole in one of the complex's modules.

The inquiry, due to be completed by the end of the month, is aimed at clearing the air after accusations and recriminations among Russian space agency officials.

The crew on Mir at the time of the collision, Flight Commander Vasilii Tsibilyev and Flight Engineer Aleksandr Lazutkin, face fines for culpability amounting to a third of their pay during the mission.

The crash happened as Commander Tsibilyev was attempting to dock the cargo craft manually with the station during a practice manoeuvre. Mr Lazutkin is additionally being held responsible for unplugging the station's main computer in July, leaving the complex virtually without power and spinning out of control through space for about 24 hours.

Other officials, including Boris Ostroumov, deputy director of the Russian space agency, said the two men should be treated as heroes and receive awards for their achievement in overcoming the disasters.

Russian newspaper reports said that about \$10,000

(£6,300) of both men's pay had been withheld pending an official investigation into their mission. Viktor Blagov, deputy chief of the mission control centre at Korolyov, north of Moscow, said the men had received 70 per cent of their pay, but that there was no firm decision yet about whether they would be fined.

Mr Yeltsin's remarks, made during a meeting with Aleksandr Serebrov, a prominent former cosmonaut and member of the President's Defence Council, appeared to point the way towards both cosmonauts being exonerated.

Mr Serebrov said afterwards that a considerable share of the blame for the situation aboard Mir could be found on Earth.

Since the collision, the Spektr research module has remained sealed off from the rest of the complex. A spacewalk last weekend by Michael Foale, the British-born Nasa astronaut, and Anatoli Solovyov, the replacement flight commander, failed to locate the hole in the module.

As well as the collision and the computer crash, the Mir crew has had to endure other setbacks including failures of the oxygen generating system, breakdowns in the automatic stabilisation system and a shortage of power. Commander Tsibilyev also suffered heart problems.

Second Nasa probe homes in on Mars

Washington: A Nasa spacecraft was closing in on Mars early today to map the planet's surface and find landing sites for future missions, including a manned expedition (Ian Brodie writes).

The Mars Global Surveyor was due to enter an elliptical orbit at 2.31am after a journey of ten months and 435 million miles. A roving vehicle was landed on Mars in July.

The Surveyor will not begin mapping the Martian surface until March after descending

to an ideal viewing orbit 235 miles above the planet. It is expected to provide the most detailed topographic maps of the Red Planet ever seen.

The launch of Nasa's first Moon mission in 25 years has been pushed back from September 24 to November 23 because officials need more time to prepare the rocket that will carry the lunar probe, Nasa said. The Lunar Prospector mission will mark Nasa's first foray to the Moon since 1972.



George Bizos, the lawyer representing Steve Biko's family at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearing in Port Elizabeth yesterday, cross examines the leader of the police unit that tortured the black activist to death (Inigo Gilmore writes). Colonel Harold Snyman, 69, was ridiculed by a mocking public

Policeman's testimony ridiculed

gallery as repeated inconsistencies destroyed his version of the events of 20 years ago.

The colonel, who led Biko's interrogation, agreed with Mr Bizos that he believed a black man should obey

a white man, especially a police officer. He also said that Biko, a leading member of the Black People's Convention, had become "too big for his boots", but denied playing a direct role in his death. The largely

Winnie witness can give evidence

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN CAPE TOWN

AN ARREST warrant for a man who claims to link President Mandela's former wife Winnie Madikizela-Mandela to at least two murders is being lifted so that he can return to South Africa for a public hearing, officials said yesterday.

The decision appears to remove the last bar to the return of Katiza Cebekhulu, who disappeared on the eve of a 1991 trial at which he was to have been a co-defendant with Mrs Mandela. He turned up in London and claims he was abducted to keep him from giving evidence.

Katiza's Journey, published this week by Fred Bridgland, says Mrs Mandela ordered the killing of Dr Abu Asvat in 1989 — she denies the accusation — to cover up her role in the beating of four young men in 1988. One of them, Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, was found dead later and Mrs Mandela was convicted in 1991 of kidnapping and being an accessory to assault.

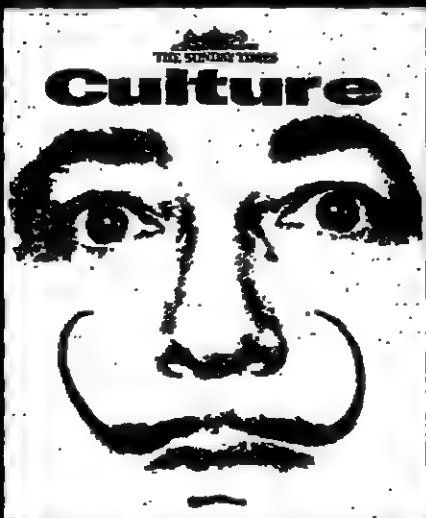
NEWS REVIEW



SMALL FRY

A thief's progress: part one of Stephen Fry's autobiography

CULTURE



DALI THE DISASTER

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Very, very short

The mini is back — in red and black — just in time for winter. Grace Bradberry picks three of the best



ABOVE: Spaghetti strap vest, £19.99 by H&M, Hennes Oxford Circus, W1 (0171-255 2031). Skirt, £69.95 by Karen Millen (01622 664 032).
CENTRE: Mat jersey dress, £795, and hipster belt from Donna Karan, 19 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-495 3100).
RIGHT: Leather short-sleeved dress, £1,475 from a selection at Ralph Lauren Collection at Polo Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-491 4967).
Photographer: Alex Sarginson; Stylist: Sunny Rowley; Hair: Nicola Clarke at Premier for Andrew José; Make-up: Denise Lilley; Model: Natalie Massey at Storm.

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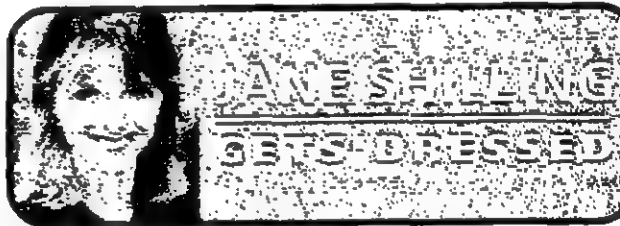
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A whiff of Bad Attitude

THERE IS no such thing as a too-short skirt. There is no such thing as a too-short skirt. It is important for me to believe this, since I have just spent a tidy sum on a very, very short skirt indeed (well, actually, two very short skirts — but they are so extremely small that strictly speaking, they count only as one skirt. Or so I keep telling myself). In any event, having bought them, I have begun to experience Doubts.

It was the glossy magazines that made me do it. At the very fag-end of summer, just when the charm of those flower prints and ruffles that seemed so fresh and pretty at the season's start had definitely begun to fade, along came *Vogue* and the rest of the glossies, full of images of these short, sharp, rather brutal little skirts — the very antithesis of drifty prettiness. A new look — and of course I wanted it. Out for a walk one sunny day, I wandered into a shop, and there it was, 18 inches of dark-grey, box-pleated cavalry twill.



With quite a lot of high fashion (grunge, a look I loved, is a good example), length and tedious explanations are necessary before they get the point. You get all dressed up in your exquisite vintage satin slip dress with the real lace border, and the velvet-trimmed cardigan from Voyage that cost you would rather not say what, and the chap in your life raises his eyebrows to his hairline and

about my new skirts? Well, for a start, although it is true that short skirts have never really gone away (despite the periodic announcements of their demise from the Paris catwalks), the new look is shockingly shorter than anything that has been around recently. It alters the proportions of the body, lengthening the torso — and last year's cardigan looks all wrong with it.

One way around the problem of proportion is to forget separates, and choose, instead, one of the many simple and desirable dresses around this season — just as sexy, and much easier to wear. As for me, I can see that the only solution lies in another little expedition to the shops.

STANDING IN front of the mirror, I thought it looked all right. There appeared to be no sign of Kneecap Drop or Ankle Bloat, or any of the other afflictions that might condemn one to a winter of trouser suits and full-length tweed drapery. A certain leap of the imagination was necessary, it is true, but with the addition of some spike heels and a customer twinst, some opaque tights, lipstick and my hair properly brushed, I thought I could probably get away with it. You had better have it in black, too, said the salesgirl. I am sure you are right, I said, obediently.

What I have always loved about minis is their powerful whiff of Bad Attitude. I missed the moment of their greatest impact, first time around, but when I arrived at secondary school in the Seventies they were still regarded by the authorities with loathing and dread, and the biology master, armed with a tape measure, used to roam the corridors, making random spot checks on our skirt lengths (no shorter than two inches above the knee when kneeling upright).

The other great thing about minis is that men are keen on

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Dublin	£50	£100	£80	£80	£80	£90	£90				
Paris	£50	£100	£80	£80	£80	£90	£90				
Brussels	£50	£100	£80	£80	£80	£90	£90				
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Philip Howard



■ We Britons may keep a stiff upper lip, but the Americans invented it

A stiff upper lip has become an unfashionable feature, even when it does not jut out above a loose lower jaw. Since Blair is reading the lesson, and when one is on the verge of crying, a stiff upper lip seems a useless appendage. I thought that this stoic image must have been invented for Victorian five-year-olds off to prep school and subliminally stranded on the Khyber Pass without a saddle, reciting *If*. And at least one explanation has been attempted along these lines: young officers in Victoria's armies wore moustaches to make themselves look adult, and tried to keep them trim so that the cultivated hair did not make their upper lips twitch, such twitching being a sign of lack of control in front of their men and messmates.

Like most popular etymologies, this explanation is ingenious but as useless as facial hair. All recorded evidence shows the stiff upper lip to be of American Puritan origin, from 1830 onwards. It is the reverse of the American "down in the mouth". Harriet Beecher Stowe urged Uncle Tom to keep a stiff upper lip. A century later P.G. Wodehouse, expert in American slang, was one of the first British writers to introduce the image. "Carry on Jeeves, stiff upper lip!" Graham Greene, another expatriate Briton sound on American usage, distinguished machismo, the Spanish equivalent of the Roman *virtus*, as having little to do with a stiff upper lip. And indeed, antique Roman and Homeric heroes blubbed a great deal at the appropriate occasions, provided they did so in a manly way, not making a ritual display of screaming like a woman.

Shakespeare's heroes from Hamlet downwards were not afraid of tears, yet like the antique Romans, Shakespeare knew that the best epitaphs are dry, with only a hint of tears in the subtext. *Cymbeline* is a muddle as a play. But it contains two of the most plangent lyrics in English, including "Golden lads and girls all must... As chimney-sweepers come to dust." This does not have the iron Age stoicism of the epitaph by Simonides for the Spartan dead at Thermopylae. But Housman caught Shakespeare's combination of stiff upper lip with the common touch that comes to lads, girls and chimney-sweepers in his epitaph on the British Expeditionary Force of 1914.

Tastes in epitaphs vary vastly through time and culture. For those who find *Candle in the Wind* and the vernacular verse in Kensington Gardens touching but mawkish, Peter Vereker, our poetic Ambassador to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, has written a song for Diana:

I will go smiling, sleeping,
To the cool of the great hall;
I will go proud and safe
Not sad at all
I will go running, laughing,
To the calm of the green isle;
I will go bright and brave
To rest awhile
I will go seeking, giving,
To the peak of the high bell;
I will go glad and sure
Where lovers dwell

An icon used to be a stiff Byzantine picture of Christ, the Virgin Mary or a saint, venerated in the Orthodox churches. Now it has become a conventional cliché, an icon to click on from the database. A tragedy should be more strictly defined than just as a terrible calamity. Dunbar was not a tragedy by the strict definition of the word, though it was an enormity and a great grief. But a tragedy should concern a celebrated protagonist, with some fatal flaw in his character. It once had to have a turning-point, a recognition scene, a climax and a resolution. A tragedy should teach lessons, and perhaps purge our emotions through a spectacle of pity and terror. Diana's death was part tragedy, part fifth act of a Shakespearean historical drama in fashionable modern dress, and part black farce.

And for those with stiff upper lips, paparazzi were named from the Italian for "buzzing insects", which they resemble as they swarm about a celebrity victim. Their activities were first brought to public notice by *La Dolce Vita*. But Maeterlinck anticipated Fellini: "Something in the insect seems to be alien to the habits, morals and psychology of this world, as if it had come from some other planet, more monstrous, more energetic, more insensate, more atrocious, more informal than our own."

As journalists defy the powerbrokers who control the Moscow media, a free press is born, says John Lloyd

Russia's fourth estate takes on the tsars

Russia — weak, poor, uneasily at peace, neither collapsing nor surging ahead — makes little news now, in contrast with the last five years of the past decade and the first five of this. Its political divisions have resumed a Byzantine pattern: men of power struggle viciously in and around the Kremlin for advantage and state favour, apparently indifferent to the popular welfare. Most disappointing to me, who saw between 1988 and 1995 the flourishing of a profession of really free and talented journalists, these men and women who established the new papers and renovated the old television and radio channels seem to have been suborned by the new masters.

Russian politics have become oligarchic. Boris Yeltsin achieved re-election last year because he mobilised the financial support of most of Russia's leading bankers. But nothing is free in Russia: the financiers benefited hugely from their investment in Yeltsin, receiving large slices of the most profitable assets in the country. Two of their number — Vladimir Potanin of Onewebank and Boris Berezovsky of Avtovaz — took high posts in government (Potanin has since resigned).

The deal made with the businessmen included assimilation of the media into the presidential camp, and a very large moderation of its critical faculties. The main business figures either had, or quickly acquired, control of the television channels and the Moscow newspapers. *Izvestia*, which had a period of

relative freedom in which it became the liberal and generally trusted voice of the intelligentsia, was bought up by a combination of Onewebank and the major energy company Lukoil, and lost its doughty Editor, Igor Golembiowski. The two principal television channels — the partially state-owned ORT and the independent NTV — are either controlled or owned outright by Berezovsky and Vladimir Gusinsky of the Most financial group. Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, has just created his own television channel to serve his (formally denied) ambition to run for the presidency. He is also said to have put pressure on all channels to keep Diana, Princess of Wales's funeral off Moscow's screens last weekend because it clashed with the anniversary celebrations he had decreed for the capital.

Since powerful, ambitious and ruthless men control the media, the business of journalism must serve their ends. The curbing up of the state assets of Russia is a brutally corrupt business in which the big bankers are not merely in the

corridors of power but right inside the highest offices, demanding this and agreeing on that. They are at war among themselves at present because Potanin of Onewebank, the closest to government, outbid Gusinsky of Most and Berezovsky of Avtovaz for control of the company which controls the shares of the largest part of Russia's telecommunications. The latter two felt it was their turn to be favoured and have turned the fire of their television companies and papers on the senior ministers who they feel betrayed them.

This is a grim picture. Journalists can — indeed, are encouraged to — expose this or that minister or financier, but only because their boss wants revenge or to gain an advantage. Corruption on their own side is wholly taboo, no matter how blatant; that is the stuff of the rivals' media.

The benign view is that from this hammer and anvil of competition is beaten out the truth, or something near it. The reality is that few seem to find the

revelations of corruption and influence-peddling shocking, since there is seen to be no effective way of stopping it. Where the judicial and political institutions and civil society are all weak, independent media flap their wings uselessly in the field air.

Russia was never a wholly open society, even in its most idealistic days just before and just after the Soviet collapse, yet it has not become a wholly closed one. The oligarchic state is unstable, with Yeltsin now favouring this old hack, now that new broom — such as Boris Nemtsov, the new First Deputy Prime Minister. The financial barons make alliances which fall apart and are reformed with new configurations. The State is too weak to keep them in line and thus create a corporatism along fascist lines.

Russia is no longer a vast island. The Mayor of Moscow may have decreed Diana's funeral off the airwaves, but he invited her friend Luciano Pavarotti to sing in Red Square, together with the American illusionist David Copperfield

to do tricks and the French electronic showman Jean-Michel Jarre to put on a light show. The sale of the communications company to Potanin was only possible because the Hungarian-American financier and moralist George Soros backed him with £1 billion. Even as the energy sector seeks to keep out foreign capitalists, it realises that it cannot renovate itself without foreign capital.

The journalists probe the limits: the better ones try to push against them. When an ORT correspondent was jailed by the authoritarian Government of Belarus for demonstrating how lax its border controls were, the Russian Ambassador did not complain, but his inactivity sparked angry protests, but just from the television company but more widely. The many casualties and hostage-takings of Russian journalists in Chechnya gave the profession a moral stiffening — the more so since the writers and cameramen brought back pictures and stories which helped to create a public outcry against the war. Oleg Golembiowski, in his sixties, is trying to found a new *Izvestia*.

Gorbachev raised the lid, initially to promote his own agenda. Later he, then Yeltsin, decreed press freedom to be a fact. It remains an aspiration — as it does everywhere. Money can still write many of its own rules in Russia, but it has witnesses and it cannot wholly control them.

The author is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.

Hey Mum! I'm on thin ice

It started when I fell into a crevasse. Then came hornets, rockfalls, bats, rapids ...

Hey mum!" was how Bob Morgan put it. When I began writing for *The Times*, Bob was a senior reporter in our room at the Commons, nearing retirement. "If your column could be introduced by the words 'Hey Mum! Guess what happened?' he told me, quoting the old Fleet Street advice, "it's probably worth printing. Or try asking 'so what?' at the end. If the question stings, reconsider submitting the piece."

Too often the question stings. They could put "so what?" on my tombstone. Few columnists fail to persuade themselves that what they have just written matters, but on sober reflection, we all have weeks when good topics come as rarely as Number 11 buses.

Then, like Number 11 buses, they all come at once.

Our story, then, takes shape not so much as a cream puff, as a log: a traveller's log ...

First I fell down a crevasse. This was a new experience for me. Many ice-climbers never fall down a crevasse in their lives: I was into my first within an hour of being taken on to my first glacier. We were above 16,000ft in the Cordillera Real of the Bolivian Andes, learning the techniques necessary to climb 5,000ft higher, to the summit of Mount Illimani. We had just mastered ice-axe arrests. Now, roped together, three of us — Peter last, me in the middle and our leader, Archie, to the fore — we were making our way down the glacier to base camp.

It was within seconds of Archie shouting "crevasse!" that the new fall of snow under my feet suddenly gave way. My foot went through. As I tried to right myself, the other foot went through. Now I was up to my chest and the snow under my arms was crumbling in, too. Some instinct caused me to spider out my arms and legs and lie still. Archie and Peter dug in and fastened the rope. It held and I lay spreadeagled, hands and feet dug into crumbling banks, looking down.

You may think this odd, but I felt nothing as epic as shock at this unexpected possible end to my life; just a sort of "oh!" such as might follow the coming-off of a doorknob in one's hands. I stared down. It was not cobalt blue, as in the movies. It was brown, dim and murky, deeper than I could see. I heard the echoing drip-drip of water, as into a deep well. I was not afraid, though no more than hopeful of survival. Peter and Archie tugged and I rolled out of it. An hour before I had protested to Archie

that this was a Thatcherite world and climbing ropes risked condemning three instead of one.

Of Illimani, you may hear more next week. Of our rowing against a storm across the waters of Lake Titicaca to the Island of the Sun, there is no space to tell ...

And so we come to Conzasa. We (Penny, Louis, Adrian, Julian and I) had reached this tropical village in the foothills of the Andes by Jeep, and, after pulling ripe oranges from trees, lodged in a tiny but pleasant logging house. (Should we look up our valuables? "No," we were told. "There was a thief here once, but we shot him.") The dawn saw a dearth of transport on to Santa Rosa (30 miles), so we started to walk.

It did not matter that nothing came. Our morning stroll along a jungle track, through hills, alongside rivers, overgrown by chattering green parrots, attended by butterflies the size of blue and yellow handkerchiefs, observed by bird spiders from giant-sized webs and ignored by armies of leafcutter ants on the march, and surrounded by flowering trees and waterfalls ... was like paradise.

Lunch at Incachaka after 15 miles was hot, but they had rice and fried egg (they never have less in Bolivia, and rarely more) and we marched on into the afternoon sun. Suddenly there was a swimming pool — a big, roadside concrete pool fed by clear, cool water from a nearby stream — so we stripped off and swam. Then onward, the forest trees growing more huge as we descended into the heat. Next a bend in the track, a giant mahogany, and a liana rope hanging from 50ft above. We all swung and shrieked like children.

Then on. All at once a swarm of black hornets attacked from the trees. We fought them off. Our losses amounted to five stings: six hornets bit the dust.

Another corner — and a river to cross. A wide, deep and turbulent river. Boots off, we waded over with sticks. The track began to climb. After climbing 1,000ft we were strung out singly over a mile, all tiring. The sun was setting as I rounded a bend to hear a waterfall and see Louis' rucksack but no Louis. Moments later he stumbled out of the undergrowth, soaked, bleeding from the head, arms and leg. Exhausted and thirsty, he had tried to reach the water, fallen down the bank, dislodged two rocks, hit the water and been hit on the head by much the smaller of the rocks. Lucky it wasn't the big one. The wounds were superficial and Louis was dazed, no more. We limped in the dark into a



mining village, serenaded by bullfrogs as fireflies flashed and tree frogs bleeped like electronic synthesizers. A dog-sized coyote snuffed into the bushes.

Lights and a bar! Penny drank two litres of fizzy lemonade and was sick. An ancient Land Rover materialised and taxied us through some gullies to Santa Rosa. Penny collapsed on to a bed at the Hotel Ruth — a goldminer's lodging, with a green swimming pool — and we four then hit the town: one cobbled street lined with stalls — lit by Tilly lamps, with chemical balances by the cash desk for those who pay in gold — and bars. At

one such we drank eight cold beers to the barmaid's cassette of Ana Gabriel's *Mexican Lament*. The Indian at the table next to ours got up to urinate out of the door, returned, clasped Adrian's hand in drunken goodwill, sat down alone at his table and continued drinking. Later we were surprised by a crash as he hit the bare earth floor, followed by everything on the table. The barmaid picked up the broken glass and left him lying there, crumpled and insensible. We returned to the hotel and swam at midnight. Big bats flitted over the water. Sleeping hardly a wink in this noisiest

and most mosquito-ridden of dives, we rose for the dawn Toyota (20 miners in and on top of one pick-up truck) to Mapiiri.

At 9am from Mapiiri there is a dugout canoe to Guanay. We reached it just in time, our Toyota driver steering straight into the river, then driving upstream, the water flowing under the door sills, to the canoe landing. The three-hour, 80-mile river journey, shooting down rapids, outboard-motor assisted, in the company of miners, their wives, babies and wheelbarrows, as Indians panned the riverbanks for gold, was too amazing for words ...

So no words, save to mention the rock we nearly hit (big, glistering, black, flashing by) and the wave that hit us, drenching Adrian. On to Guanay, whence a stilling three hours in an overloaded minivan on a dirt road to Caranavi, a truck stop at the foot of the Andes, where we were now headed back. I made tomato-and-onion sandwiches.

By the Caranavi road junction we found a vast Volvo truck laden with some 30 tonnes of hardwood planks, its driver and his family just climbing into the cab. He agreed to turn a blind eye as we clambered up the side. There followed three hours we shall never forget. Atop the mahogany, looking out over the cab, we had a platform in the air as the Volvo roared and ground its way up an earth road winding, it seemed, into the sky. Dusk fell, waterfalls from above the road splashed on to us and dusk enveloped us as our vehicle clung to the edge of the near-vertical mountain-side into which the road was carved and dynamited.

And then ... but I think I'm running out of space. Lorry stops in dark. Rockfall ahead. Pitter-patter, then rush, then roar, then pitter-patter. Driver U-turns to roadside shack where woman with two Kerosene rings makes two plates of rice plus two tins of pilchards, wolfed. Turn again: landslide still in progress. Huge roar. Driver says stop the night. Bed on planks. Millions of bright stars: pitter-patter, roar all night. Dawn. Road kaput. Decide to cross landslide on foot (Indians doing so), then walk. Penny hit on head by rock, but not killed. Penny shocked, dazed. Julian takes her pack, she limps behind. 10km on, reach shack. Negress in Indian costume and bowler hat (descendant of escaped slaves) gives us water, and alcohol for Penny's head wound. Walk on. Sudden roar of scores of trucks — landslide must be cleared, road reopened — first driver misreads detour sign and heads into flat, dry riverbed — all follow — much flooding and dust — all head back out the way they came — *Wacky Races* — we flag down minibus, sweaty peasants edge away — bus climbs hill — on top, Coricoro. Hotel Esmeralda, phone! Swimming pool, trout, beer. Penny can chew a bit. So brave. Must send *Times* column Hey, mum!

Second love

IAN MCEWAN, the novelist, has just wed in secret. His bride is Annalea McAfee, a red-haired arts journalist known to colleagues as "the much-loved", whom he married at a private ceremony in Long Island. Surprised friends thought he was still recovering from the end of his 14-year marriage.

McEwan, 49, whose novels dwell

on teenage incest, serial killing and sado-masochism, was as coy as a teenager who had eloped to Gretna Green. "We're very good friends," he blushed. "She's a lovely girl."

He has dedicated his latest novel, *Enduring Love*, about a disturbing psychological condition which renders sufferers in a psychotic state of deluded, unrequited and obsessive love for another — erotomania — to his new wife.

For McEwan it is a radical life-change. During his marriage to Penny Allen, a meditation expert, he often spoke of his happy family life (he and Miss Allen had four children) in rural Oxfordshire.

Now he has left the shires to live in Annalea's McAfee's pad in Primrose Hill, North London. She won respect for battling through a cancer scare ten years ago. The relationship also signifies a radical change for her: before falling for McEwan's literary charm, she dated an actor who plays one of the hard-nosed Mitchell brothers in *EastEnders* — lads more used to hanging out under car bonnets than in the Groucho Club.



Blushing groom: McEwan

● Beefy egos are suffering in Rome. Arriving at a restaurant earlier this week, the actor Sylvester Stallone, who has savaged the paparazzi, was greeted not by flashbulbs but by snappers bearing notices reading "We are photographers, not assassins". All efforts to pose were in vain: they simply refused to take his picture.

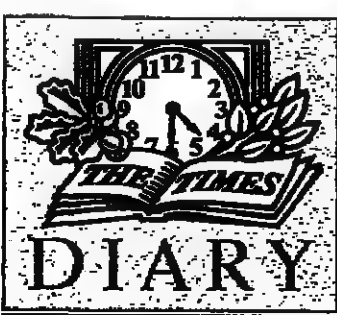
State's man

SHOULD Wee Willie Hague manage to produce an heir, his son would be a remarkable human being — the first child of a Tory leader in a thousand years to attend a state school.

"I went to a state school and I would certainly do the same with my own family," he tells me. "There are very many outstanding state schools."

Tory image works are clearly determined to make Wee Willie appear even more ordinary than he already does (remember the rum punch at the Notting Hill Carnival in that open-necked shirt?).

The patter of tiny Tory feet is usually accompanied by the swish of a housemaster's cane. Margaret Thatcher sent little Mark to Harrow and Carol to St Paul's. Even



the classless John Major sent James and Elizabeth to Kimbolton school (£12,800 a year). Ted Heath had no such dilemma.

So, this promises to be young William's first historical achievement. I just hope that his delightful fiancée, Pfiom Jenkins (about as smart as they come in Wales), continues to be so understanding.

Not a lot

JUST good enemies seems to be the state of neighbourly relations among the sun-lounger set in Buckinghamshire. Cilla Black, the *Blind Date* presenter, has a difficult relationship with her neighbour, the magician Paul Daniels. Odd, really, as both would seem

to come from the same drawer. But 12 years of living near Miss Black in the village of Denham were enough for Daniels, who has decided to pack up his conjuring-box and move to Berkshire.

"I saw very little of Cilla and never liked her," he says. "She only lived three doors away but she never took part in the local community. She's a strange woman."

Miss Black's remaining neighbours, who include the actor Sir John Mills and the musician Mike Oldfield, might be interested to hear that their Cilla has gone abroad for a while. Ta-ra, chuck.

● Felsham church, Suffolk, was this week sued after one of its trees crushed the garden of a neighbour, who alleged negligence. The church's unsuccessful defence? It was an "act of God".

High and dry

COULD this be the end of High Life? Swarthy playboy Taki shocked *Spectator* readers yesterday when he hinted that his column may be leaving the magazine. Low Life is gone and I am not sure if High Life works without it. The despondent scribe, refer-

ring to the demise of his sister column after the death of Jeffrey Bernard. But Frank Johnson, Editor of *The Spectator*, says it is a false alarm. "He will carry on, he is just a bit down. Contrary to popular belief, he is quite a modest man."

● Ever the opportunist in conference season, Tony Blair will follow his Brighton victory parade with a flight to Moscow, neatly timed to coincide with the Tory gathering in Blackpool. Our leader guesses that pictures of him dawning shots with Boris will outclass seaside snaps of Wee Willie.

Bottom line

LIPS moistened at London's Hempel Hotel the other night as guests admired the rippling forms of athletes depicted in Herb Ritts's revealing photographic exhibition.

Baring all for art (if art it be) was Jacqui Aggerpong, a British hurdler, whose uninhibited pose left admirers in little doubt of her athletic prowess. But to the chagrin of female guests, Linford Christie, the 100m Olympic champion much famed for his "lunch-box", said simply: "I don't take my clothes off." Cheeky, this, as his company,



Vitality: force of gravity

Nuff Respect, manages some of the featured athletes. Conversation turned to just how the male models — such as Olympic champion Vitaly Sherbo, whose muscular back and bottom have set many a girl's pulse a-flutter — managed to display their nakedness without presenting their masculine charms for all to admire, so to speak. Colin Jackson, the hurdler, explained that it is a matter of physics: "You lean slightly to one side and let gravity do the work," he said. "Just like a pendulum."

P.H.S



DIANA'S DAY

A permanent memorial is needed for the pilgrims

Ten days ago, we quoted Auden's words: "Let the mourners come." They are still coming. The streets and gardens around Kensington Palace are choked with pilgrims. They come to pray or weep for Diana and her children, to bring thank-offerings for her life and works, or to purge some private grief. Some, too, come just to be part of a great mass happening. Meanwhile, transport and parks authorities struggle to cope with the invasion of the pious and the curious. Even the removal of flowers and messages has had to be essayed with the utmost sensitivity. Old traditions are stirring; perhaps not since the Reformation has Britain witnessed such a pilgrimage, amid scenes that might have been familiar to Chaucer but seem strange to many now.

As the Chancellor of the Exchequer and his committee set about the task of commemorating the Princess one thing is clear. Those who are devoted to Diana need a shrine, one less makeshift than the gates or grounds of Althorp and of the royal palaces. A permanent place of pilgrimage must be established before this unsatisfied hunger turns veneration to acrimony.

London should have a secular monument; it might be sculptural or architectural, or (like the Albert Memorial) both. Kensington Gardens is the obvious site for it, though much depends on the scale and the design. Just as her funeral succeeded in fusing ancient and modern words, classical and popular music, so it should be possible for the nation's talents to create a monument that captures something of the lady's elegance and grace. A public competition should be held, perhaps involving the Prince of Wales. If Gordon Brown were reluctant to allow the Exchequer to pay, the cost could be met jointly from the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund and from public subscription.

There may also have to be a more discreet memorial at or near Althorp which, unlike Diana's island grave, would be open all year round. Such a memorial would be best placed in Great Brington Church, where the rest of the Spencers lie, or in its churchyard. If that is not possible, Earl Spencer should give some thought to erecting a chapel of remembrance in the vicinity of Althorp. If it were beyond his means, the memorial fund might contribute. The running costs could be paid out of voluntary contributions, perhaps subsidised by the greatly enlarged revenues which the public can be expected to pay at Althorp itself. The chapel ought to be a holy place, at once accessible and ecumenical, to reflect the fact that her devotees come from all faiths and none.

Diana should be commemorated in time as well as space. One of the best proposals so far is that of creating a new Bank Holiday or perhaps renaming an existing one in Diana's honour. The obvious date would be her birthday on July 1, or the nearest Monday. New Bank Holidays are a macro-economic luxury, however, and the present Iron Chancellor might veto it. In that case, moving one of the two existing May Bank Holidays to July would have much to recommend it. Some trade unionists and others on the Left would object to the abolition of the May Day holiday, so the Government might prefer to avoid unseemly controversy by moving the other May holiday instead.

Whatever Mr Brown's solution turns out to be, the idea of Diana Day is attractive, festive, and not without precedent. On November 17, Elizabeth II's accession day, glasses were raised in memory of Good Queen Bess for decades after her death. Just so should the nation toast the Princess on a bright July day for many years to come.

THE MINE TREATY

The painful journey to a world without landmines

Halfway through the three-week conference in Oslo negotiating an international landmine ban, the Canadians have good reason to be satisfied. The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has galvanised world opinion into support for a permanent prohibition on the manufacture, sale or use of any anti-personnel landmine, including even those that self-destruct. Lloyd Axworthy, the Canadian Foreign Minister and leading crusader for a world ban, has arrived in Britain from Oslo, and can see for himself how the Princess's campaign has influenced public and government views. More than 100 countries are represented in Oslo, and virtually all are ready to subscribe to the Ottawa principles.

There is one critical exception. America is still demanding the right to maintain mines along the South Korean border to deter an invasion by communist North Korea, one of the world's most unpredictable regimes. President Clinton, bowing to public opinion, not least in the United Kingdom, has promised that he will sign the treaty. But the Pentagon wants to postpone destruction of its stocks in Korea indefinitely. Mr Axworthy, to his credit, is entertaining no exception: any geographic or strategic exception would negate the force of a treaty, he argues, and lessen the chances of persuading countries and armies still relying on landmines to change their position.

Strategists have pointed to flaws in the American arguments: if any North Korean assault were armoured, it would be accompanied by mechanised mine-clearing devices against which anti-personnel mines are of no effect. And in more difficult terrain the North Koreans would use "human wave" tactics in which mine casualties would be simply disregarded. America may well change its stance in the coming week; if not,

it has until December to accede to the treaty due for signature on September 19. Washington may not want to pass up the chance to make amendment or be seen as a laggard in the wake of its northern neighbour.

Finland is one country not represented at Oslo: though geography and the Cold War explain such former reliance on mines. More seriously, Russia, China, Pakistan, India and Israel are also absent. The treaty relies on the renunciation of mines by user countries, and a world ban may carry some weight in the sub-continent and Russia. But equally important is the prohibition on the manufacture of these deadly weapons, now deployed in some 60 countries and still killing or maiming about 500 people each week.

China is by far the largest manufacturer, and the main market nowadays is not governments but guerrilla groups and militias fighting in the mountains of Afghanistan or jungles of Cambodia. As long as a steady supply is available, insurgents and separatists will continue to sow these cheap instruments of mutilation and death.

Western strategists are already looking at alternatives to mines. Spy satellites and drones could monitor frontiers, and air-blast bombs could be as deadly a deterrent to aggression. But a comprehensive landmine ban would not end the killing of non-combatants. Estimates put the number of mines already deployed at up to 300 million; in countries such as Angola, Afghanistan and Cambodia farmers and children will be victims for years to come. Some clearance has begun, notably in Kuwait and Bosnia. But even in Egypt the desert is still deadly, and there is virtually no money to make it safe. The Ottawa process cannot stop with a treaty.

SICKLY SWEET

A sweetshop is the first place where children control their lives

If Mars contains intelligent life, then it is well disguised. Certainly contact with this chocolate and toffee planet is taking place at an enormous distance from normal childhood on Earth. As we report today, the Mars confectionery empire is expected to rename its old favourite Opal Fruits. The fruity, chewy sweet will be known as "Star Bursts" in future.

This decision will allow the company to exploit the same brand name worldwide. It will make economies of scale by standardising a single advertising and sponsorship strategy. It swims with the tide of globalisation. But the marketing moguls do not give a gobstopper or an effervescent sherbet fountain that they are striking a blow against traditional values. To buy sweets is a child's first chance to spend pocket money; a child's first adventure into the world of commerce. And children remain conservative about the sweet poetry of their childhood names.

This is not the first time that the men from Mars have displayed soulless tendencies. A few years ago Marathon — the chocolate bar packed full of peanuts — was renamed Snickers for standardisation. The contrast of nomenclature was an oxymoron. The eponym Marathon suggested heroism in battle and on the running-track, even the birth of civilization when honey was the only sweet. Marathon was a name with no dictionary, Snickers, which is recorded in no dictionary, has no poetry, except possibly to assist in the

composition of juvenile limericks. Now the poor Opal Fruit is to suffer the same indignity. The name may not be quite classical, but it still conjures up images of beauty. It does actually, if not entirely accurately, describe an attribute of the product. For the sweet has iridescent colours, even if the gemstone would be hard on the teeth. Star Bursts, on the other hand, is a completely artificial construction. It sounds like a television talent competition.

The Slough-based sweet superpower would be unwise to treat the sensitivities of its customers so lightly. Ask an adult about Snickers and all you will receive is a look of Trivial Pursuit bemusement. Mention Smarties, however, and a sentimental conversation will follow. Such preferences are transferred across the generations. Mars executives may find in this case that they have bitten off more than they can chew.

If Mars continues with these tactics it will put itself out of business. In North America the Mars Bar does not exist but the company retails a very similar product. This is called Milky Way, which is somewhat different from the variety we know in Britain. According to its current fiendish plans, the corporation should logically axe the Mars Bar and then rename itself Milky Way Limited, Slough. Mars plc was founded 65 years ago but its marketing men have chosen to act more like impetuous teenagers than pensioners. Are these people off their wrappers?

'Reality' of West Bank occupation

From Mr John Rowe

Sir, As a recent visitor to the occupied West Bank, I was concerned to read in your leading article ("Under siege", September 9) that "The Palestinian leader has been too ambiguous for too long in his approach towards the extremists". Expecting Arafat to "decommission terrorism within the territory he controls" — a feat not yet achieved even by the British Government in Northern Ireland — merely obscures the uncomfortable reality that Hamas has flourished under the conditions of mass pauperisation and injustice which Israel has imposed on the territories.

Hamas is a highly professional and discreet organisation; there are no easy targets on the West Bank. Another programme of the extra-judicial murder, arbitrary arrest and detention of terrorist "suspects" and ordinary Palestinians on the scale currently being called for by the Israeli Government will not result in the peace with security promised by Mr Netanyahu, regardless of whether the clampdown is carried out by the IDF or Arafat's private army.

You laid much emphasis on Israel's "agony" in the Lebanon and its right to security; no mention was made of the no less valid rights of Palestinians and Lebanese civilians. Given the carnage wreaked in Lebanon over the years by the Israeli Army and Air Force, and the continuing abuse of human rights in the occupied territories, this seems fundamentally unjust. Justice, not collective reprisal and further repression, is the only long-term basis for security; until Israelis accept this and the facts of the occupation Madeleine Albright is wasting her time.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ROWE,
10 Station Road, Parbold, Lancashire.
September 10.

Blair and the unions

From Mr Peter Wood

Sir, It is unfortunate that the Prime Minister's address to the TUC (reports and leading article, September 10) should lean so insistently on such an inadequate notion as "the real world", especially when he insisted that "influence with this Government and with me is not determined by anything other than the persuasiveness of your arguments". David Paton of the Fire Brigades Union saw not persuasiveness but threat.

Even if that is putting it too strongly, Mr Blair was certainly not relying on persuasive argument to convince the unions, rather the well-developed, inhumane — because incomplete and one-sided — market rhetoric to which the Archbishop's much-reviled but careful address ("Brothers berate Carey over brethren", Business, September 10) was a useful corrective.

To agree broadly with Mr Blair is not to endorse the terrible conceit of modern enlightenment which animates his message.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WOOD,
Newbold Farm,
Dunstonhouse, Abbot's,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.
je28@diol.pipex.com
September 10.

From the General Secretary of the TUC

Sir, May I clarify your report ("Anger at privatisation by back door", September 11) of the TUC's debate on the Private Finance Initiative.

Two motions were presented to Congress for discussion. The first said that the PFI should not be relied upon to underpin the renewal of public services. It did not rule out all forms of public/private partnerships. This motion was carried unanimously. The second motion was opposed in principle to PFI and any private investment in public services. The General Council recommended that Congress should oppose rejecting PFI in principle, and it was defeated following a card vote.

The discussion was certainly lively and real concern was expressed about the operation of the PFI, particularly in the National Health Service. However, Congress did not agree to oppose PFI in principle or to "mount a challenge" to PFI in all circumstances.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MONKS,
General Secretary, TUC,
As from: Congress House,
Great Russell Street, WC1.
September 11.

Business letters, page 27

Fate of the Battersbys

From Mrs Brenda Hoatson

Sir, Your report today that Jack Straw has announced tough new measures to deal with neighbourhood bullies. Is this the only way we can get the message through to Coronation Street's producers that the neighbours from hell (letters, September 2 and 9) are not wanted?

If he wants realism, let the residents call in the police and find out how tough these measures really are.

Yours faithfully,
BRENDA HOATSON,
56 Meadow, Liverpool L5.
bhoatson@clara.net
September 10.

Banana ban threat in the Caribbean

From Mr Christopher Booker

Sir, Your Brussels correspondent is right (report, September 9) to highlight the very alarming threat now hanging over the very small Caribbean islands if the World Trade Organisation confirms its proposed ban on the preferential arrangements whereby they can export their bananas to Europe. But the plight of former British islands like Dominica and St Lucia should not be confused with that of "former... French colonies".

As maritime départements of France, islands such as Martinique and Guadeloupe are part of the European Union. This means that not only will they be able to continue exporting their bananas to Europe, but under the common agricultural policy will continue to be subsidised by EU taxpayers.

British taxpayers thus face the anomaly that, while we can do nothing to help banana growers in our own former colonies, we must continue to subsidise their French neighbours.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BOOKER,
The Old Rectory, Litton, Bath.
September 9.

From Mrs Glens Kinnock, MEP for South Wales East (Party of European Socialists Group (Labour), and others

Sir, While the EU considers how to respond to the World Trade Organisation ruling which could spell ruin for Caribbean banana-growing states, there is one thing British consumers can do: buy Caribbean bananas. Those sold in Britain are 5-15s, Geest, JP and Pyffes.

Shoppers could also fill in customer comment forms, available in most supermarkets, asking the supermar-

lets to give consumers the choice of buying Caribbean bananas.

The WTO ruling will not benefit free trade — it will only reinforce the dominance of bananas grown by American multinationals on huge plantations in Central and South America. The impact on Caribbean states is likely to be very damaging. Without the banana boats other exports and vital imports will become more expensive to transport. Without vital banana export earnings these island democracies could soon become dependent on aid or, as your report suggested, drug cultivation.

Yours faithfully,
GLENYS KINNOCK,
DAVID THOMAS,
TERRY WYN,
European Parliament,
97 rue Belliard, Brussels B-1047.
September 9.

From Mr John Harrison

Sir, If the WTO ban is heeded, it will wreck the fragile economies of the islands and probably cause political instability.

As the total banana output of the Caribbean islands is less than 5 per cent of that coming from Central America and the northern republics of South America, the European subsidy is hardly unfair. The importance of banana exports to the islands is that it provides between 40 and 80 per cent of their total revenue, the highest figures for the islands without high tourism.

As half the islands are in the British Commonwealth the withdrawal of the subsidy may give the UK significant aid costs.

Yours,
JOHN HARRISON,
31 Aylesbury Road, Bedford.
September 10.

Treasury and Church

From Mr Robert Leach

Sir, As the Treasury announces its tax rebate for *Candle in the Wind*, perhaps I could point out how it has treated the Church of England, in whose building this song was premiered.

In the last 20 years, the Church has been hit twice by the move to indirect taxation. The reduction in the basic rate of tax from 35 per cent to 23 per cent has reduced the tax reclaimed on covenants from 54 per cent to 30 per cent, while irrecoverable VAT has more than doubled from 8 per cent to 17.5 per cent on purchases by the Church of everything from cathedral maintenance to candles.

VAT has been added to church extensions, heating and bells. The 50

per cent local authority tax relief for vicarages has been scrapped. Insurance-premium tax has been introduced, costing the Church over £1 million.

These changes alone account for an estimated extra £21 million per year in tax.

The last Budget removed the tax credit for pension funds, which will cost another £17 million a year.

The Treasury can easily afford to give back £1 million to Princess Diana's charity. They can fund it from the extra £38 million tax paid by the Church of England.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT LEACH,
19 Chestnut Avenue,
Epsom, Surrey.
September 11.

School pets

From Mrs Elizabeth Ormerod

Sir, I am perturbed to learn that education officials in Aberdeen are considering a ban on school pets (report, August 28).

Research presented at an international conference in Geneva in 1995 on human-animal interactions showed that the presence of classroom pets can have many positive effects on child development. These include improved self-esteem, higher academic achievement and better social skills. Children also have the opportunity to develop an understanding of and compassion for creatures more vulnerable than themselves, which helps them to develop empathy for other people. A school pet programme can also be successful in countering vandalism and truancy.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH ORMEROD,
The Mount Veterinary Surgery,
1 Harris Street,
Fleetwood, Lancashire.
September 1.

A-level lit crit

From Mrs Sharon Footerman

Sir, Michael Cole (letter, August 29; see also letter, August 20) is over-generous in assuming that an A-level candidate would need to commit to memory a correctly punctuated "catch-all" closing sentence.

All A-level literature candidates are required to take copies of their set texts into the examination room. The blank pages and margins of these texts may be annotated with handwritten notes. Many candidates pack the blank spaces in their texts with "notes" ranging from page references for quotations to complete model answers on key topics.

This saves the candidate from the stresses of memorising anything and, indeed, of doing any real thinking at all.

Yours faithfully,
SHARON FOOTERMAN,
6 Woodward Avenue, Hendon, NW4.
August 29.

A lovesome thing

From Mr Robert Hargreaves

Sir, Readers who advocate wilder gardens (Mr John Brooks's letter, August 27) should remember the country vicar who greeted one of his tilling parishioners with the remark: "It's a wonderful thing that God can do with a garden."

"Maybe so, Vicar," replied the gardener. "But you should have seen it when He had it to Himself."

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT HARGREAVES,
Backfield Place,
Winchelsea,
East Sussex.
August 28.

Latin misconstrued

From Dr Leofranc Holford-Strevens

Sir, The inscription from Caesarea Maritima published in your earlier editions today is mistranscribed and mistranslated.

The top line is omitted, and the second is given as "adiviorib", which is gibberish.

Either the second line is a mistake for T or the crossbar has worn off. Bearing in mind the Roman taste for abbreviation, we get:

SPES BONA
ADIVTORIB(us)
OFFICI
CVSTODIAR(um)
"Good hope to the adjutants of the Office of the Watch."
Yours faithfully,
LEOFRANC HOLFORD-STREVS,
67 St Bernard's Road, Oxford.
a.uls@ellus.demon.co.uk
September 10.

Vultures' return

From Mr C. J. Wilmoth

Sir, The reintroduction of the bearded vulture to the French Alps (letter, September 10) may well "lift the spirits of conservationists". I am not so sure it will do the same for injured skiers.

Yours sincerely,
C. J. WILMOTH,
2 Bould Farm Cottages,
Bould, Idbury,
Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire.
September 10.

Letters may be faxed to
0171-782-5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

US salute to earl's powerful tribute

From Mr Todd Victor Leone

Sir, In the whole of my 45 years, I have never been as deeply affected by the death of someone I never met as by that of Diana, Princess of Wales. I have never been as deeply moved by a funeral.

As a member of the Anglican communion, I have long maintained that no religious tradition is better at devising liturgies in the English language. I commend your honorable Prime Minister for his inspiring reading of I Corinthians xiii.

But the most inspiring experience of the entire service was Earl Spencer's tribute. I am not often given to standing omissions while viewing television by myself, but I was compelled to rise and applaud. If only all sermons in all pulpits could be as powerful, as effective, as liberating, as accurate in aim.

Earl Spencer doubtless chose to speak his truth and live with the consequences, if any. I salute him for his courage and his honesty.

Sincerely,
TODD VICTOR LEONE,
1690 Broadway,
San Francisco, CA 94109-2418.
todd1952@pacbell.net
September 9.

Value of protocol

From Rear-Admiral J. P. W. Middleton

Sir, Protocol has been much in the news in the past week, usually with a suggestion that it inhibits change, or makes impossible some otherwise desirable activity.

Protocol has two aims: to formalise the application of good manners, so that no one is embarrassed or surprised, and to establish best practice, based on relevant experience.

Protocol did very well last week. It laid down guidelines for the conduct of a great human activity, and allowed an enormously complex exercise to proceed with exemplary dignity and exactitude. The much trumpeted, but relatively minor departures from the rubric were only possible because so much of the ceremony was already decided, allowing time to consider carefully the proposed changes.

Thus protocol encourages deviation and can properly be considered to be a liberating framework of reference rather than a confining straitjacket.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MIDDLETON,
Manora, Chilmare, Wiltshire.
September 8.

From Mrs M. E. Richards

Sir, Those who clamour for a change to the monarchy would be well advised to reflect on the resulting bitterness and division caused by the "modernisation" of the Anglican Church.

It does not augur well for the future if stability and security are to be undermined in order to accommodate the fashion of the day. Change inevitably occurs over the generations, but it must happen in a responsible and sensible way, and for the right reasons.

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET RICHARDS,
West Adderbury,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Protecting minors

From Mr Robin Spon-Smith

Sir, I believe that Lord Donaldson of Lynton (letter, today) is mistaken. The inherent jurisdiction of the High Court with respect to minors can be exercised without making the child concerned a ward of court.

This was recognised by Lord Donaldson's predecessor, Lord Denning, in a judgment (Re L) given in 1968. It is now well understood amongst family law practitioners that wardship proceedings are a convenient, but not essential, method of invoking the inherent jurisdiction.

It would therefore be possible for the Prince of Wales (or, in theory, any other person) to apply to the High Court for orders to protect his sons from intrusive publicity without the necessity of making them wards of court.

The making of such orders would appear to go beyond what the High Court has hitherto been prepared to do in the exercise of its inherent jurisdiction, but the jurisdiction is a highly flexible one, theoretically unlimited in its scope, and is open to judicial development.

Yours truly,
ROBIN SPON-SMITH,
1 Milre Court Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
rsponsm@compuserve.com
September 9.

A blow for monarchy

From Mr John Montgomery

Sir, Thank you for the photograph on your front page today showing one of "The People" thumping Johnny Foreigner on the jaw. I have been wondering just who they might be, these "People", of whom one hears so much lately and for whom, so we are told, the monarchy must be modernised. Now I think I know.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MONTGOMERY,
10 Belmont Hall Court,
Belmont Grove, SE13.
Se.,ember 11.

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OBITUARIES

BURGESS MEREDITH

Burgess Meredith, American actor, died in Malibu, California, on September 9 aged 89. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on November 16, 1907.

Burgess Meredith was a versatile and popular performer whose career spanned more than half a century. Although his first love was the theatre, he worked regularly in radio and television and made more than 70 films. He was also active as a director and film producer.

As a young man Meredith played headstrong romantic heroes and comic leading men with equal conviction, but his real strength was in support, where his idiosyncratic features and gravelly voice lent depth to even the smallest character part. Some of his best performances were in the last two decades of his life.

Much of the acting work he did can scarcely have taxed his rare abilities — he may well be best remembered for his outrageous cameo as the Penguin, arch-villain (arch in every sense) in the 1960s *Batman* series. But he seemed not to mind. "If I spent all my time in Shakespearean companies and only did art movies, my position might be more dignified and serious. I might even be a better actor," he once said. "But this is America, and I'm a man moved by the rhythms of his time, so I'll just take amusement at being a paradox."

Burgess Meredith was the son of a Cleveland doctor. His parents separated when he was four, and when he was eight his mother took him to live in New York, where he displayed talent as a boy soprano and won a scholarship to a Roman Catholic choir school. From there he went to Amherst College in Massachusetts.

His first taste of the stage came when he took the title role in *Peter Pan* at school when he was ten; but, like several other actors of his era, he planned to be a writer when he grew up. As a youth, he worked for a time on the *Stamford Advocate*, and then turned his hand to a number of other jobs in New York. Finally he approached Eva Le Gallienne, who was organising the Civic Repertory Theatre, and asked for a trial. She accepted him at once.

His first speaking part was as Peter, the servant to Juliet's nurse in *Romeo and Juliet*. He remained with the company until 1933, when he scored an instant success as Red Barry, an inmate of a reform school, in *Little Orphan Boy*.

Soon afterwards he appeared as Mio, hero of the stirring blank-verse play *Winterstet*, written for him by Maxwell Anderson and based on the



Meredith as the Penguin in *Batman*; in *Winterstet* (top right) and in *Rocky* (bottom right)



Sacco and Vanzetti anarchist case which had gripped America shortly before. In 1936, when RKO decided to film this sombre but arresting drama, about a young man trying to find out who committed the murder for which his father had wrongly been executed, Meredith went out to Hollywood for the first time. The role in which he made his film debut was to remain a favourite with him.

Hollywood at once accepted him as a young actor gifted with considerable versatility, and he found himself cast in a wide variety of films, from films comedies such as *There Goes the Groom* (1937) and *Spring Madness* (1938), to the pretentious eye-of-confection *Idiot's Delight* (1939) and the altogether more substantial *Of Mice and Men* (1939). The latter, Lewis Milestone's powerful film of John Steinbeck's novel, drew from Meredith one of his most moving and

considered performances, as the itinerant ranch hand George, struggling to care for Lon Chaney Jr's slow-witted giant Lenny Small.

He served as a captain in the US Army Air Corps during the war, but in 1944 he was released to play the war correspondent Ernie Pyle (to whom he bore a remarkable resemblance) in *The Story of GI Joe*. After the war he co-produced a comedy, *On Our Merry Way* (1948), with a cast that included Henry Fonda and James Stewart, and directed a thriller, *The Man on the Eiffel Tower* (1949), in which he starred alongside Charles Laughton.

Meredith's relationship with Hollywood was not always an easy one, however. Casting directors sometimes seemed unsure whether to treat him as a leading man or a character player, and there were several periods when work was not forthcoming.

In the 1950s he found himself blacklisted for his left-wing political views; he was later to win an Emmy for his impassioned performance in a 1977 documentary-drama about those years, playing Joseph Welch, the Boston lawyer who helped to put an end to Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-communist campaign.

Meredith never much cared for Hollywood, and had no great affection for the cinema. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he refused in later life to look back with nostalgia on some mythical golden age of movie-making. "In the old days," he once said, "there were five men who ran the whole industry, who could make or break your career": modern Hollywood, he thought, was an altogether saner place.

The theatre was his true love, and he was happiest when either acting or directing for the stage. He had a

lively and experimental approach to both functions, and was always a great admirer of Orson Welles, to whose *Fahrenheit* he had played Prince Hal on stage before the war. During the 1950s he was seen both as actor and director in New York, London and Paris, but he was also seen fairly frequently in films.

He did a great deal of television work, too, not all of it commensurate with his talents, and his distinctive, resonant voice was regularly heard in commercials extolling the virtues of anything from United Airlines to Skippy Peanut Butter.

He found one of his most enjoyable and enduring television roles in the 1960s *Batman* series, a tongue-in-cheek camp classic which quickly won a cult following and continues to be shown around the world today. The series made a feature of its celebrity crooks, with Eartha Kitt (Catwoman) and Caesar Romero (the Joker) among those going gloriously over the top as the Caped Crusader's criminal foes. Meredith's dastardly Penguin, manically waddling and quacking in top hat and tails, was a memorable creation.

Age enhanced Meredith's appeal as a character actor, etching more deeply his quirky, careworn features and adding an ounce or two more gravel to his grumbling voice. His film career received new impetus in the mid-1970s. He was nominated (for the first time, but without success) for an Academy Award for his performance in *Day of the Locust* in 1975, and again the following year for his role as the cantankerous trainer of a rising boxer in the film *Rocky*, where he added welcome emotional depth to what was essentially a vehicle for Sylvester Stallone. He went on to appear in the various successful *Rocky* sequels. The endearing gruffness which he had brought to his portrayal of Rocky's trainer found another outlet when he played Jack Lemmon's father in *Grumpy Old Men* (1993) and its sequel, *Grumpy Old Men 2* (1995).

A man of wide interests and considerable intellectual range, Meredith was throughout his career an active campaigner on social and environmental issues. He was also a wine expert and enthusiastic amateur chef. In 1994 he published a volume of memoirs, *So Far, So Good*.

Burgess Meredith was four times married (his third wife was the actress Paulette Goddard, with whom he appeared in a number of films and who was once married to Charlie Chaplin). He is survived by his fourth wife, the dancer Kaja Sundsten, and by a son and daughter.

FRANK GOLDSWORTHY

Frank Goldsworthy, Journalist, died on August 31 aged 85. He was born on January 5, 1912.



LIFE as a reporter and foreign correspondent in the heyday of the *Daily Express* — when it was selling more than four million copies a day in the two decades after the war — was as unpredictable and exciting as anything from the pages of Evelyn Waugh's *Scops*.

The paper boasted that its extensive foreign coverage cost £20 a line (equivalent to nearly £400 today). Television was still a small flickering black-and-white screen, and even middle-market newspapers (none of them then tabloids) specialised in first-hand dispatches from world troublespots — "Tonight I lie in Castro's jail" was one of the most famous of *Express* intros.

Frank Goldsworthy, who joined the *Daily Express* at the age of 23 and spent 42 years on the paper, interrupted only by five wartime years in the Royal Navy, soon became a veteran globe-trotter.

During the Korean War in 1950 he became one of the more unlikely foreign correspondents to receive a by-line in *The Times*, when the paper's Ian Morrison (with whom Goldsworthy had had dinner only two days before) was killed with *The Daily Telegraph's* Christopher Buckley when their Jeep ran over a landmine. Because of the tragedy, Goldsworthy's cables were made available to *The Times*, which in its gentlemanly way prefaced his story: "The following despatch was received from Mr Frank Goldsworthy of the *Daily Express*." The "Mr" occasioned much leg-pulling from less respectful colleagues back in the *Express*.

Frank Goldsworthy, who was born in Darlington, started his journalistic career on his hometown *Evening Despatch* at 21 in 1929, where a fellow cub reporter on the sister *Northern Echo* was Ted (now Sir Edward) Picking, who was later to be Goldsworthy's Editor on the *Express*. Both recalled how "accuracy, first, last and

always" was drilled into them by fierce chief reporters.

In later years, when he became the *Express's* High Court reporter (and president of the High Court Journalists' Association), Goldsworthy's reliable shorthand skills were called upon by several judges, who did not want to wait until the official court transcript was ready, to find out exactly what had been said an hour or two previously.

As a reporter, Goldsworthy could do a reluctant interviewee and was formidable persistent but always polite. In May 1947, Dr Robert George Clements of Southport managed to get away with killing three of his wives before killing his fourth and then himself, after a woman, Mrs M., had tipped off the police about her suspicions. Frank Goldsworthy was the only reporter to get an interview with Mrs M. "Do you know, Frank, why you were the only one I let into my house? You were the only one who ever closed our garden gate," she later told him.

Shortly before he died, Goldsworthy had the satisfaction of seeing the publication of his long-delayed autobiography *Want You Soonest... Memoirs of a War Reporter*.

Goldsworthy was predeceased by his wife Peggy. There were no children. After his wife's death, he shared his last five years with June Welch, whom he had met in Naval Intelligence in Gibraltar during the war.

MARJORIE SIGLEY

Marjorie Sigley, Controller of Children's Programmes, Thames Television, 1963-86, died of cancer on August 13 aged 68. She was born on December 22, 1928.

A WOMAN passionately committed to the idea that drama is an unrivalled force for expanding and educating the minds of the young, Marjorie Sigley had talents which branched out in every direc-

tion. Before taking up her post at Thames Television, she had wide experience of writing, directing and devising dramatic material, both for the stage and the screen. Her reputation was international and her work was respected particularly in America. But at the height of the Cold War she had also taken children's theatre behind the Iron Curtain, notably to Czechoslovakia but also to other Soviet bloc countries.

For her, children's theatre was not simply a matter of "theatre for children". She believed that the process of participating in dramatic creation was an antidote to the pressures of formal education. In classes and workshops in schools, theatres and on television, she encouraged children to shape and control their own material. For her, it was all a part of their becoming aware of themselves and their environment, and integral to

the process of growing into responsible citizens. Marjorie Sigley grew up in Buxton, Derbyshire, where her interest in drama was fired from an early age by visits to the repertory theatre there. At Goldsmith's College, London, she studied drama, dance and music, before returning North to take up a fellowship in drama at Manchester University. It was there that she became involved in theatre workshops

and participation theatre, taking groups of her students to the Brighton Festival with their work. She was later to direct the Malcolm Williamson opera *Julius Caesar Jones* as part of the festival's opera workshops.

She returned to London to a teaching career, which she combined with her drama activities. At Markfield School she began by adapting stage classics for performance by young children and, in 1960, she founded the City Literary Drama Company. This presented its own work, ranging from original pantomimes to experimental mime and movement workshops at the City Lit Theatre. In 1968 the company visited Warsaw, Leningrad and Moscow with its children's drama programmes.

In the meantime she was also writing and directing at the Mermade Theatre, notably a stage version of Erich Kästner's *Emil and the Detectives*. She had two spells, 1962 and 1968-69, at the Habimah National Theatre of Israel and in 1964 did a Youth Theatre tour of Czechoslovakia.

She had also taken the step into television in 1964 when she was invited to demonstrate what children's drama could achieve in a late-night ABC programme. Her contribution, which graphically demonstrated how the potentially destructive energies of teenage boys in a London suburb could be channelled creatively, made a profound impression. She was busy in television thereafter, one of



her most striking contributions being *Wonderworld*, two 13-part series in which children in the 5-6 and 15-16 age groups, dramatised and acted stories from the Bible.

From 1960 onwards her Young People's Theatre Project was training primary school teachers in her methods and in 1969 she was director of the Royal Shakespeare Company's workshop series at the Roundhouse.

In 1968, her work profoundly impressed the American actress Uta Hagen, who saw

her in action at the Roundhouse. As a result of this she was invited to New York, where she founded the New York City Young People's Theatre, which she directed from 1969 to 1975. During this period she wrote and directed most of its 45 productions. She remained in the United States for several years more, founding and running her own company, Sigley's Young People's Theatre in New York in 1976, before moving to Los Angeles the following year to write a screenplay.

In 1983 she returned to this country to take up the appointment as head of children's television at Thames. She felt that television as an instrument capable of improving children's awareness of themselves and their environment through drama had not improved in Britain since her active days in the medium in the 1960s. She deplored the exaltation of confrontation and violence in programmes that children regularly watched, and hated what she saw as a gleeful harping on the faults of society. She also felt that television for children had become much less intelligent.

Nevertheless, at Thames she set to work with her usual enthusiasm and energy to try to improve things, and was able to bring some highly stimulating work to the screen. Among this was the series *The Wall Game*, which had classes of schoolchildren involved in constructional building and improvisation. The series was chosen to represent Britain at the 1985 Tokyo World Fair. *The T-Bag* was set round a wicked witch and a small boy who assists her, while *Cab* was a mystery detection series for 8 to 11-year-olds.

After leaving Thames she maintained both her live drama and television work. Even after cancer was diagnosed several years ago she had continued to produce both books and ideas for television. Marjorie Sigley never married.

PERSONAL COLUMN

PUBLIC NOTICES

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1997

Failure to order TV decoders could hit digital launch

By RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

CONSUMER electronics manufacturers have expressed concern that delays in placing orders for television set-top boxes could affect the launch of digital terrestrial television in the UK.

Digital terrestrial TV (DTT) will offer viewers the chance to have as many as 40 new television channels with a conventional TV aerial.

although a digital set-top decoder will be necessary.

The main commercial DTT licences were awarded in June to British Digital Broadcasting, a partnership between Carlton and Granada, the two largest commercial broadcasters.

The Independent Television Commission, the industry regulator, hopes to grant BDB its licences by the end of this month. Under the rules, BDB then has to launch its service within 12 months. However, some manufacturers are concerned they have so far received no specifications from BDB and no orders have yet been placed.

Pace Micro Technology, the UK decoder manufacturer whose shares have been hit by slower than expected digital television equipment orders from around the world, has, it is believed, warned BDB that specifications are urgently needed if it is to produce anything but the simplest decoders within the planned timescale.

Steve Barnes, sales and marketing director of Pace, said yesterday: "All of us need to make decisions quickly in order to meet market deadlines."

Pace will today produce its millionth digital decoder, but there is often a considerable lead time for new designs. In the next three weeks, the company will start delivering digital decoders to Canal

Plus, of France. That order was placed 13 months ago.

The first microchips for the DTT decoders are not expected to be ready until Christmas. The sense of urgency is caused by the fact that the pre-Christmas market is the best time to sell new consumer products.

BDB said yesterday that it would be issuing specifications to manufacturers in the near future, but declined to say when that would be. The company said it was confident it was still looking at "the second half of next year" for the launch of DTT.

There is also concern about the initial price of the equipment. If first orders are small and include high levels of interactivity, the initial retail cost could be as much as £540.

BDB has made clear that it wants sets to cost only £200 to £300, so compromises may have to be made on specifications if the level of subsidy is not to become unacceptably high.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4854.8	(-50.4)
Yield	2.54%	
FTSE All share	2294.72	(-21.29)
Nikkei	18282.23	(-422.54)
Dow Jones	7629.62	(-89.68)
S&P Composite	908.54	(-10.91)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	6 5/8%	(6 5/8%)
Yield	6.60%	(6.60%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Libor long gilt	11 1/4%	(11 1/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.8670	(1.8671)
London		
DM	1.8681	(1.8683)
FF	6.5611	(6.5611)
SP	2.3462	(2.3510)
Yen	160.20	(160.00)
£ index	98.7	(98.5)

US DOLLAR

London		
DM	1.7788	(1.7855)
FF	6.5008	(6.5008)
SP	1.4715	(1.4793)
Yen	118.57	(119.25)
£ index	106.7	(106.6)

Tokyo close Yen 118.85

WORTH WATCHING

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$18.85	(\$18.45)
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GOLD

London close	\$322.35	(\$321.25)
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* denotes midday trading price

Centrica 'on track' despite heavy losses

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

CENTRICA yesterday claimed its business was "on track" despite unveiling huge losses in its maiden set of interim results.

The company, which was spun out of British Gas this year, recorded a half-year pre-tax loss of £149 million, compared with a profit of £196 million last year.

But Roy Gardner, chief executive, said that Centrica had made great strides towards resolving problems it inherited from British Gas. The company also revealed it would be cutting gas bills by about 9 per cent from January.

The price cuts, which will come largely from a reduction in transport costs, are expected to be matched by Centrica's main rivals as competition heats up.

Mr Gardner said Centrica had made "substantial improvements" to the level of customer service, which had plagued the company during the past few years.

The company has also reduced its exposure to take-or-pay contracts, which tied Centrica into buying overpriced gas, by about 50 per cent since demerger. Mr Gardner added he was confident of unveiling a deal with an electricity generator and would be the first energy group to provide a nationwide "one-stop" energy shop next year.

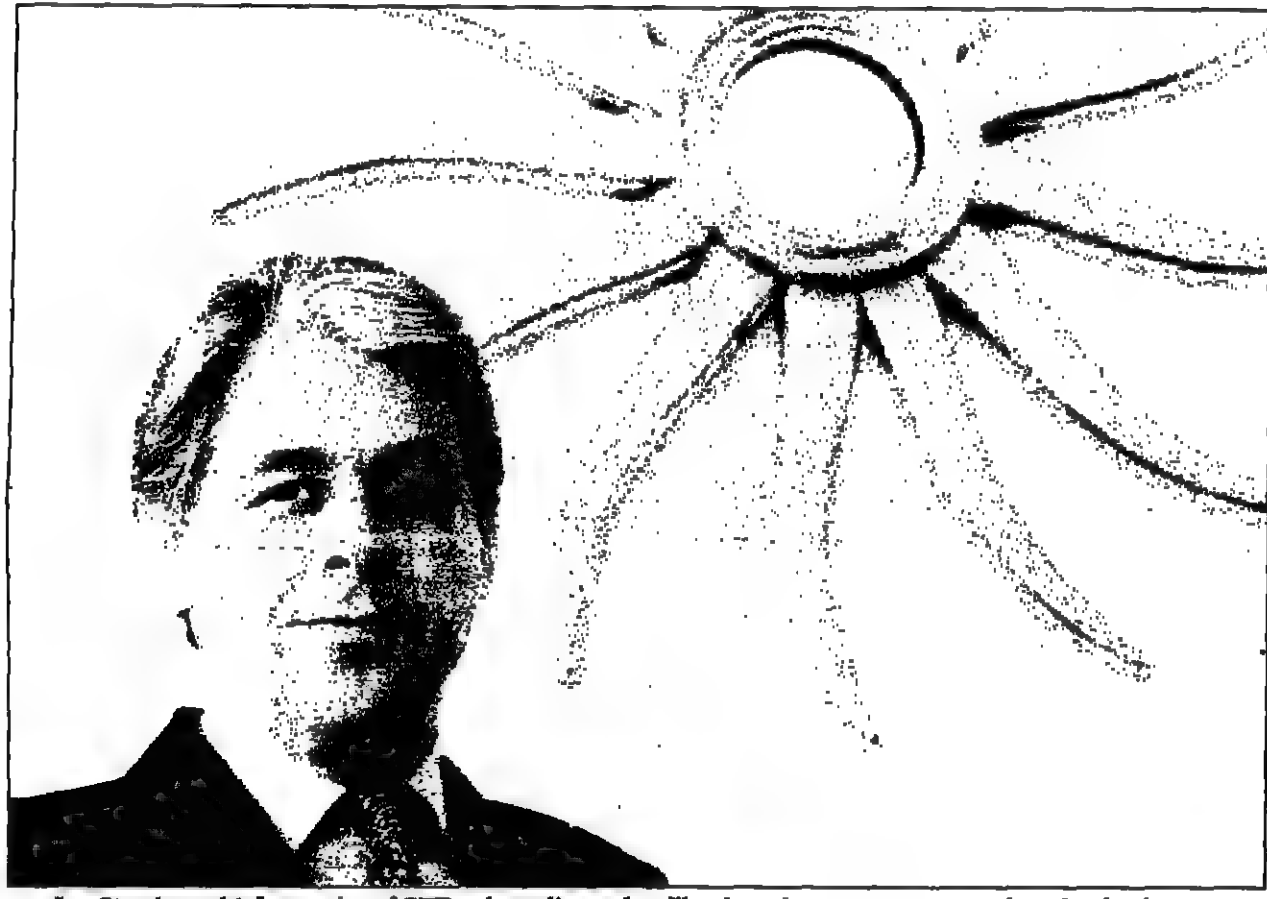
Operating profits declined 50 per cent to £89 million, mainly because of warm weather cutting gas consumption. Exceptional charges totalled £252 million including £192 million from the windfall tax payment, £40 million from the renegotiation of take-or-pay contracts and £20 million redundancy costs.

There is no dividend.

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BTR to halve group with £3bn sell-off

By JASON NISSE



Ian Strachan, chief executive of BTR, where disposals will reduce the group to core engineering businesses

BTR launched a £3 billion sell-off programme yesterday to slim down the giant industrial conglomerate to a core of engineering businesses, halving the size of the group inherited by Ian Strachan when he became chief executive last year.

The group — which recently bowed to City pressure and replaced its chairman, Elwyn Eilledge, with Bob Bauman, the former chairman of Smithkline Beecham — also flagged the prospect of giving back to shareholders a large part of the money raised.

BTR has sold businesses with turnover of £2 billion in the last year, cutting its debts to £2.4 billion, and still has businesses with sales of £300 million to dispose of under the programme it announced a year ago.

The group plans to complete the new round of sell-offs by the end of next year. Mr Strachan said the amount to be returned to shareholders depends on how much was received from the disposals, their timing and the prospects of investing in the business it retains. Once the sell-offs are completed, BTR is expected to move from the diversified industrial section on the stock market, where it has been since the 1970s, to engineering.

Mr Strachan also rounded on critics of Kathleen O'Donovan, the group's 39-year-old finance director. Many institutional investors have called for her to stand down, claiming that she did not have a strong grasp of strategy. "Kathleen is a highly valued member of my management team and I hope she will continue to remain so," he said.

The companies to be sold had sales of £2.8 billion last year and include the packaging side, which delivered most of the growth seen by BTR in the early 1990s, building materials and the polymer businesses, which formed the core of the group Sir Owen Green turned into an international

conglomerate in the 1970s and 1980s. Among the brands to go are Formica, which BTR bought only two years ago; Nylex, the Australian business; and most of the remaining Dunlop operations, the original Birmingham Tyre & Rubber company.

BTR's recent disposals have commanded prices equal to around 80 per cent of sales but Mr Strachan expects to receive at least 100 per cent for the new wave of sell-offs. The jewel in the crown is packaging, which makes nearly all the glass bottles for the Australian wine industry. Analysts expect this business to be worth as much as £2 billion.

The announcement of the disposals lifted BTR shares 15p to 234p, despite a disappointing set of half-year figures. Taxable profits fell by £86 million, to £540 million, though half of this fall was caused by movements in exchange rates. Earnings per share fell to 9.1p against 10.7p, and the dividend is unchanged at 4p, payable as a

foreign income dividend on November 28.

The City was quick to point out that many of the businesses that will make up the core of BTR after restructuring performed poorly in the six months. The automotive group suffered a 1 per cent fall in profits largely because of a sharp fall in Australian car production, and the power drives business only enjoyed a 1 per cent increase in earnings.

"Look at the divisional figures, they are all pretty wretched," said Charles Pick, diversified industrial analyst at Parunore Gordon, the brokers. "There is not that much evidence that BTR has achieved the change of culture that Strachan promised."

Mr Strachan admitted that margins, which stood at 19 per cent when he took over, would be under pressure at the group, but said this was a factor of investing in high-growth areas like automotive sealants and control systems.

Commentary page 25

Bae must honour £360m state debt by 2000

By ADAM JONES

BRITISH AEROSPACE must repay £360 million to the Government by 2000, it emerged yesterday. The loans were made to fund the launch of new aircraft by Airbus, the European consortium in which Bae is a partner.

Called "launch aid", the loans funded the start-up of the Airbus A320 and A330/A340 planes. The interest rates have not been disclosed although they are above base rates. The repayment of the loans will mask the growing profitability of Airbus and affect Bae's earnings in 1998 and 1999.

Bae repaid £41 million, relating to the A320 only, last year. The repayment is expected to be about £60 million this year, is expected to reach up to £140 million next year, peak at up to £160 million in 1999, before subsiding to about £60 million in 2000.

Bae said the increases followed a repayment schedule set down when the financing was obtained. A new launch aid application has been made for the A340-600 airliner.

Bae shares fell 45p to £15.10 yesterday even though the company reported a 29 per cent rise in profits to £278 million before tax and exceptional items for the six months to June 30. The interim dividend rises 25 per cent to 7.82p a share.

The decision to stop production of Jetstream aircraft led to an anticipated one-off charge of £250 million, leaving a post-exceptional £70 million loss before tax.

At the end of the six months, Bae had a closing order book of £19.5 billion. Defence orders accounted for £12.1 billion of this record figure. Airbus Industrie's order book is worth \$56 billion.

Bae confirmed that Arlington Securities, its property operation, may be spun-off or floated.

Tempus, page 26

John Lewis profits advance

SHUTTING John Lewis department stores until 2pm last Saturday for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales brought a 9.3 per cent drop in weekly sales, the group said yesterday (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Department store sales were less than £28 million last week, against more than £30 million in the same week last year. John Lewis was one of many retail groups to remain shut on the morning of the funeral. However, sales at Waitrose, the group's supermarkets, jumped on the Friday.

The department stores' sales fell bucked the recent trend at John Lewis. Group sales rose 7 per cent in the first six months of the year, with pre-tax profits rising 21 per cent. Department store sales rose 11 per cent, while trading at the Waitrose supermarket chain, which had to cope with food price deflation, was up 5 per cent.

The interim figures bode well for staff bonuses. The group has set aside £63.3 million — 25 per cent more than a year ago — for possible profit-sharing. The level of bonuses will be announced with the full-year results in March.

Energis polishes pre-float profile

By ERIC REGULY

ENERGIS, the telecoms arm of the National Grid, is to launch a £1 million-plus marketing campaign to raise its profile before its expected flotation.

Analysts said that the initial public offering could value Energis at £1 billion or more. The Grid has not officially decided to proceed with the Energis sale, though Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the Grid's financial adviser, is working on the

assumption that it will be completed before the end of the year.

The Grid created Europe's most modern telecoms system by stringing 4,700km of fibre-optic cable underneath its electricity pylons in 19 months, at a cost of only £337 million. The cable companies, by contrast, have spent billions of pounds on systems that are only half built.

The Grid is under pressure to extract value from the Energis investment, which, including operating losses, has

climbed to almost £600 million. So far Energis's value has not been reflected in the Grid's share price. The Grid wants to sell no more than 49 per cent of Energis.

Irene Cackett, Energis's marketing director, said: "The purpose of the campaign is to build Energis's brand and market presence." The initial round of advertising will be carried in national newspapers at the weekend.

Spirited recovery, page 27

Interest rates pegged at 7%

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England's monetary policy committee has passed up the opportunity to raise rates for the first time since it took control of interest rate policy in May.

After four consecutive monthly rises, the committee issued a brief statement at the conclusion of its monthly meeting to say it would leave rates unchanged at 7 per cent. But the decision, which had been widely

expected, prompted little joy in the markets. The stock market, which was again weighed down by losses on the Far East exchanges and on Wall Street, slumped to its fourth consecutive loss. The FTSE 100 closed down 50.4 points at 4854.8. It has lost 2.8 per cent this week. The Dow Jones industrial average had fallen 89.66 to 7,629.62 by lunchtime in New York.

The pound also edged lower, touching a three-month low during trading. Sterling's trade-weighted index closed down

0.2 at 99.7 while the pound finished more than a mark lower at DM284.49.

Economists broadly welcomed the decision, pointing to recent data that indicates the economy may be slowing. David Kern, chief economist of NatWest Group, said that it was important to avoid policy "overkill" and to limit further rises. He said a further quarter-point rise would probably be necessary before rates peaked. The minutes of the meeting will be published on October 15.

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THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS IN BRIGHTON

Leaders fear recognition backlash

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TRADE UNION leaders gave warning yesterday of a "concerted effort" by business against the Government's plans to bring in new laws requiring companies to recognise unions.

Launching a campaign aimed at winning public support for the Government's proposals, which would make it unlawful for companies to refuse to recognise unions for collective bargaining where a majority of the workforce wants it, union leaders predicted a fierce and campaign by business.

Speaking at the close of the annual congress, John Monks, the General Secretary, said of the Government's commitment to recognition: "There are powerful forces that will be arguing against it and trying to blow them off course. They will say that it is too bureaucratic, or that it is unnecessary — that there are more important things to do, or that it will hit business. Above all they will say it's a favour to the unions — some kind of post-election payback, rather than a 'modest and entirely fair extension of citizenship to the workplace'."

Mr Monks cited the strong



John Monks, left, TUC General Secretary, with Padraig Flynn, European Commissioner for Social Affairs, who addressed conference yesterday

opposition to recognition being mounted by bodies such as the Institute of Directors. Ruth Lea, the IoD's policy head, insisted yesterday that the right of companies to make a choice over unionisation should be maintained, and said that "any appeal to the democratic rights of employ-

ees should be dismissed as quite irrelevant".

In advance of the publication next year of a Government White Paper on fairness at work, which will include plans for legislation on recognition, the TUC, at the suggestion of the Prime Minister, is holding talks with the CBI on

trying to narrow the differences over the issue, though neither side is optimistic of reaching full agreement.

But yesterday the TUC launched a campaign to support Labour's plans, which union leaders said would be a central feature of their work over the next year. Bill Morris,

General Secretary of the T&G transport union, said: "Our message is to ensure that Labour's proposals are seen as right, are seen as fair, and are seen as democratic."

Though the TUC emphasised its commitment to working in partnership with good employers, union leaders at

tacked non-union companies in Britain, many of which were "nasty and brutish".

The conference ended with a video on non-union firms, which used hidden camera footage to show allegedly poor conditions in a West Midlands chemical company and a North London bakery.

New deal with employer

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS of the GMB general union announced a new partnership agreement with a glass company aimed at ending the "hire and fire culture" and offering pay rises of up to 30 per cent.

The deal was hailed by the union as an example of the industrial partnership called for at this week's TUC conference by the Prime Minister, the CBI and the TUC itself.

The GMB, together with the

VISION OF PARTNERSHIP

AEEU engineering union, reached agreement with Solaglas, the UK subsidiary of Saint-Gobain, the French glass company, on a new deal covering about 500 glaziers in the company, and which is likely to lead to the recruitment of an additional 30 employees by reducing the use of sub-contractors.

Instead of high overtime

and call-out payments, basic pay for glaziers will rise from between £9,114 and £9,704 to £11,100 and £13,200, and for principal glaziers from £10,050 to between £13,300 and £14,630.

Lloyds TSB is to consult local communities over proposed closures of the last bank in a town. The new commitment — the first by a high street bank — comes as part of a new partnership deal with Bifu, the banking union, which extends union recognition in the bank.

Power sales to go ahead

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
AND PHILIP BASSETT

THE Trades Union Congress is to sell gas and electricity after a rebellion by a large part of the union movement was overturned.

Union Energy, which was set up six months ago, will offer gas and electricity to union members when the domestic markets are deregulated. It plans to make profits which will be put back into the TUC.

The plan stirred controversy from several unions who ar-

UNION ENERGY

gued it would threaten jobs in the energy industry and marked an unacceptable step towards TUC plc.

Steve Brazier of Union told congress: "The TUC is increasing job insecurity and competition which has led to 120,000 jobs being lost by our members in the electricity and gas industries." John Tilley, of the RMT, said: "If the price of

modernisation is we will come here to a backdrop of TUC plc then thanks but no thanks."

But Union Energy was defended by some union leaders who said that since competition was inevitable — and in the case of gas already being phased in — then the union movement should participate. Tony Cooper, general secretary of the Engineers and Managers Association, said: "Competition is coming and we are sick and tired of playing King Canute."

Pension sales boost Legal & General

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

LEGAL & GENERAL'S interim profits have jumped 15 per cent, to £155 million, boosted by strong sales of personal equity plans (Peps) and personal pensions. A total of £3.7 billion of new money was invested with the company in the first half.

In spite of the sharp rise in profits, David Prosser, chief executive, gave warning that an economic downturn or a fall in the stock market could lead to consolidation in the life insurance industry. Mr Prosser believes that current buoyant market conditions are masking the fact that many companies are not in a financially strong position. He said: "The industry has always been competitive. Margins are

thinner. You have to be able to sell large volumes on thinner margins."

The number of life insurance companies, currently 100, could fall by two thirds over ten years, Mr Prosser believes.

Earnings per share rose 19 per cent, to 8.57p, and the dividend rises 14.3 per cent, to 4p. L&G said that it would continue to pursue a progressive dividend policy after a change to its long-term fund allowing shareholders' interests to be more fully accounted for.

The company said that it had reviewed about half of its 33,000 possible pension mis-selling cases, and claimed that it was on course to meet the

end-of-September deadline for sorting out its compensation arrangements. It refused to disclose how much it had set aside for compensation.

In June, the company was strongly criticised by Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, for being slow to compensate those who had been encouraged to give up their employers' pensions in favour of taking out a less beneficial personal pension.

In spite of the attack, L&G attracted £2.3 billion of new money into pensions in the first half. It also pulled £443 million into Peps and unit trusts, and £80 million was deposited in the Legal & General bank, which was launched on July 1.

Medical sell-off at Vickers

BY DOMINIC WALSH

VICKERS, the Challenger tanks to Rolls-Royce cars manufacturer, is to sell its medical division, raising up to £100 million.

The company has already been approached by 15 potential buyers. Earlier this year Vickers sold S&W Medico Teknik, its Danish patient-monitoring business, and yesterday it unveiled the sale of its monitoring and anaesthesia equipment business in the UK and Ireland to Instrumentarium Corporation for £4.5 million.

The Danish sale forced the company to take a £12.5 million hit on its first-half results. Pre-tax profits fell to £15 million (£31.8 million). Earnings were 5.6p (6.3p), but the interim dividend, due October 16, is maintained at 2.7p.

Negative growth blow for Japan

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S gross domestic product shrank 2.9 per cent in real terms in the three months to June 30, the biggest contraction in 23 years, the Government said yesterday.

Officials blamed the fall, representing an annual growth rate of minus 11.2 per cent, on declining personal spending and housing starts after the consumption tax was raised in April. It was the worst quarterly growth rate since the first oil crisis in 1974, prompting fears that the fragile economic recovery may stall.

The Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said weak domestic demand knocked four percentage points off Japan's GDP since April, and linked it to consumer spending ahead of the tax increase.

Officials had expected nega-

tive growth, but not of this magnitude, and acknowledged that the impact of the consumption tax rise was greater than expected.

"The drop in the April-June GDP was bigger than initially expected," said Shimppei Nukaya, of the EPA. However, he said the slump in personal consumption is a short-term phenomenon, adding: "The basic trend towards economic recovery continues, although the current pace is slow."

However, Mr Nukaya admitted that the Government would be hard pressed to achieve its economic growth target of 1.9 per cent for fiscal 1997, ending next March.

The latest GDP data underlined that Japan's economic recovery is dependent on exports.

Arjo Wiggins shows benefits of shake-up

ARJO WIGGINS APPLETON, the Anglo-French paper group, yesterday reported a sharp jump in first-half profits as the effects of its restructuring began to kick in. Pre-tax profits improved from £32.3 million to £106.3 million, although turnover was 11.6 per cent lower at £1.64 billion as a result of the impact of sterling. The results compare with a particularly poor first half in 1996, a period the company described as the worst since it was demerged from BAT Industries in 1990. The results were boosted by lower pulp costs and improved market conditions. The biggest turnaround came in European manufacturing where operating profits recovered to £39.8 million from a loss of £6.2 million.

The carbonless and thermal papers business made a modest trading profit in contrast to sharp losses this time last year. The key factor was the £120 million restructuring announced in November 1995. The full benefits will not be felt until next year when Arjo is looking for £50 million of cost savings. The improved performance is expected to reduce pressure on the group to seek a merger partner as a solution to its problems. The dividend, to be paid on November 18 as a foreign income dividend, is unchanged at 2.9p. Earnings per share rose were 8.4p (2.2p).

Luton airport targeted

NATIONAL EXPRESS, Britain's largest train operator, is considering a formal bid to run Luton airport in the aftermath of a failed takeover approach by Stelios Haji-Iannou, owner of EasyJet. The company already runs East Midlands and Bournemouth airports and is bidding for Bristol airport. Yesterday National Express reported pre-tax profits of £23.5 million (£20.4 million) for the six months to June 30, lifting earnings to 13.2p (10.5p) a share. An interim dividend of 4p (3.4p) is due October 24. The shares rose 29½p to 518p.

Utility guidelines sought

THE Department of Trade and Industry and utility regulators were yesterday pressed to set out clear guidelines for competition in utilities to ensure fair treatment for all consumers and stem consumer confusion. Sharon Dee, senior researcher with the Consumers' Association, said regional and income-based differences were emerging between utilities' customers. She called for links between the DTI and Department of Social Security so that benefits related more to the outgoings of those on benefit.

Cortecs loss deepens

CORTECS INTERNATIONAL, the biotechnology company created by Glen Travers, the Australian broker, yesterday disappointed the market with a larger than expected pre-tax loss of £11.7 million for the year ended June 30, compared with a loss of £3.8 million in the previous period. Turnover fell 27 per cent from £10.5 million to £7.7 million, while losses per share rose to 7.9p, from 3p. No dividend will be paid. The increased loss was blamed on higher research and development expenses.

Invisibles seeks merger

BRITISH INVISIBLES, the private sector body that promotes the international activities of UK-based finance institutions and professional services, is recommending a merger with Ceenet, the export promotion and inward investment group set up and funded by the Corporation of London. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, has invited Lord Hurd of Westwell, currently deputy chairman of British Invisibles, to chair the combined organisation upon the retirement of the present chairman, Sir Brian Pearce.

Aspen issues warning

ASPEN, the marketing communications company, has given warning that difficulties in its print division and one-off charges will lead to disappointing earnings for the full year. In the half year to June 30, Aspen incurred an operating loss of £340,000, compared with a profit of £500,000, on turnover on continuing operations of £47 million, up 2.9 per cent. The poorer results were a result of higher operating costs, including severance costs for the previous chairman. The shares lost 1½p to 115p.

Quieter time at Bentalls

BENTALLS, the department stores group, yesterday said that it has experienced a quieter start to second-half trading and signs that the impact of building society windfalls is diminishing. The company reported profits of £1.38 million before tax and exceptional items in its first half-year to August 2, up from £400,000. Adjusted earnings per share were 6.76p (6.60p). The interim dividend rises to 0.7p a share, from 0.6p. The company also booked an exceptional profit of £6.6 million on property disposals.

Minorco earnings up 7%

COST-CUTTING at Minorco, the mining group controlled by Anglo American Corp and De Beers, both of South Africa, helped to lift earnings before exceptional items by 7 per cent, to \$214 million (£135 million), in the half year to June 30. Analysts said the cost-reduction effort was evidence that Minorco is preparing to take on new projects, such as the Collahuasi copper project in Chile and the Cerro Vanguardia gold mine in Argentina. Minorco's results were slightly better than expected. The dividend rises 1 cent to 22 cents.

Davis lifts dividend

DAVIS SERVICE GROUP, the business services company, is lifting its interim dividend 10 per cent, to 3.73p a share, after reporting a 40.3 per cent rise in profits, to £17.2 million, from £12.2 million, before tax and non-recurring items. Adjusted earnings per share rose 10.2 per cent, to 8.43p. Group turnover was £202.2 million, compared with £157.3 million. Much of the increase was attributed to the inclusion of Spring Grove, acquired in October 1996. The acquisition gave rise to restructuring costs of £2.8 million.

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SFL invests in heart of Paris

BY CARL MORTISHED

SOCIETE Foncière Lyonnaise, a quoted French property company controlled by Commercial Union and Hermes, the UK pension fund manager, is investing £2.8 billion (£290 million) to expand its real estate holdings in the heart of Paris's golden triangle.

The deals, which include

properties on Avenue Mon-

tagne, Boulevard de la Madeleine and a big development site near the Paris Opera will make SFL the fourth-largest French property company, with a £9 billion portfolio.

SFL said yesterday that prospects for investment in Paris were promising, with yields on prime properties at 6½ per cent, ahead of ten-year bond

yields, while rents had

stabilised at Fr3,000 a square metre, half their peak in 1991.

The company is buying five properties from GAN, the French insurer, for Fr676 million and is paying Société Générale Fr2,150 million for

Edouard VII, a 1.5 hectare office, retail, residential and leisure development on Boulevard des Capucines, near the Paris Opera.

Landhurst duo 'cooked books'

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE backers of the Brabham Formula One motor racing team accepted thousands of pounds in bribes in return for loans and would have leased "the very tyres" in their bid to deceive bankers, the Old Bailey heard yesterday.

Ted Ball, founder of Landhurst Leasing, and David Ashworth, the joint managing director, "cooked the books" and took £420,000 in back-handers in return for keeping Brabham afloat. In one instance, £60,000 in cash was handed over in a briefcase at a service station on the M1 motorway, the court heard.

Mr Ball 49, from Hartfield, East Sussex, and Mr

Ashworth, 45, from South Ascot, Berkshire, deny conspiring to defraud a syndicate of banks led by Guinness Mahon out of millions of pounds between 1990 and 1992. They further deny taking bribes in return for advancing millions in loans to Middlebridge Group, which bought Brabham in 1990 from Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One promoter.

Timothy Langdale, QC, opening for the Serious Fraud Office, told the jury that Mr Ball had a desire to be "one of the major players" in motor racing, and talked as if he owned Brabham.

The court heard that



Ecclestone: sold Brabham

Landhurst advanced "very substantial sums" to Middlebridge, backed by Khooi Nakachi, a Japanese businessman. Mr Ball and

Mr Ashworth conspired to pour millions "down the Brabham drain", concealing the losses from bankers. By 1990, Middlebridge was "running out of things to lease" to satisfy its desperate need for cash. Mr Ball and Mr Ashworth advanced £320,000 against racing car engines and loaned £500,000 against a Ferrari that did not even belong to Middlebridge. Some £1.2 million was loaned against machinery and racing cars with no engines. Mr Langdale told the jury: "One can be forgiven for feeling that Ball would be prepared to write a lease on the very tyres of a car which had been changed in a pistone."

The case continues today.

TOMORROW

	Bank	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.51	2.51	2.51
Austria Sch	21.01	19.55	19.55
Belgium Fr	61.59	66.98	66.98
Canada \$	2.337	2.149	2.149
Denmark Kr	0.894	0.812	0.812
Finland Mk	11.42	10.53	10.53
France Fr	9.07	8.32	8.32
Germany Dm	10.03	9.26	9.26
Greece Dr	9.01	2.77	2.77
Hong Kong \$	474	458	458
Ireland Ir	128	108	108
Israel Sh	1.11	1.03	1.03
Italy Lit	5.85	5.24	5.24
Japan Yen	205.1	205.1	205.1
Malta M	204.63	167.20	167.20
Netherlands Gld	0.880	0.801	0.801
New Zealand \$	3.358	3.101	3.101
Norway Kr	2.96	2.43	2.43
Portugal Esc	12.21	11.27	11.27
Spain Ptas	207.65	207.65	207.65
Sweden Kr	6.18	7.22	7.22
Switzerland Fr	231.25	232.50	232.50
Switzerland Sfr	13.18	12.68	12.68
Switzerland Sfr	2.50	2.58	2.58
Switzerland Sfr	279.745	258.871	258.871
Switzerland Sfr	1.66	1.55	1.55

Notes for annual determination: Bank prices only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to trading charges. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Democracy at the City gates



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Revolution is afoot in the City. Yesterday, Guildhall witnessed events which, only months ago, few would have dreamed possible. Democracy, of a sort, may be about to dawn. Gathered together, those who govern the Square Mile apparently took note of the current mood for modernisation of ancient institutions. They accepted that an alderman, once elected, should not stay elected for life. They also agreed that it was no longer appropriate for the existing aldermen to be able to veto the appointment to their ranks of newcomers legitimately chosen by the electorate.

Such changes might sound belated to the citizens of parts of eastern Europe or Africa, but in the high-tech financial centre of the City, they are breath-taking. For until now the 25 aldermen of the City have fought tenaciously for the continuance of an antiquated system which appears to outsiders to have all the least attractive characteristics of a self-perpetuating cabal. It is less than two years ago that the City battled through the courts to preserve the aldermen's rights to refuse to accept the appointment of a man whom voters, albeit these are an extraordinarily restricted breed in the City, had chosen as their representative.

Not many people of sound mind might wish to have joined the strange club from which the Lord Mayor of London eventually clambors into his fancy

coach, but Malcolm Matson, a millionaire entrepreneur, did. The existing aldermen did not want him, and their cowardly insistence on taking refuge behind their right not to explain why, raised harsh and unwarranted question marks over the man's character.

It would be cheering to think that the aldermen had agreed to behave differently because they now accept the inequity of their behaviour but that is not the case. The government of the City is bowing to the need to change because the national Government has demanded it do so. What it is trying to do, without giving up too many of the trappings, is to come up with a formula which will convince Mr Blair that it deserves to continue as a separate local authority.

As part of that process, it also agreed yesterday that it would explore ways of extending the City franchise beyond its current narrow confines, which effectively hands over control of certain wards to a few partners of professional firms.

It now falls to the very capable City bureaucrats to draw up proposals on how these plans might be put into practice. Then there will be a vote at Guildhall.

Before then, the aldermen will have donned their plumage and paraded through the streets to show off the new Lord Mayor. If that was all that these would-be worthies got up to, their arcane electoral procedures would be of little concern. But the City Corporation has all the powers of a local authority and great wealth to boot. If the Square Mile is to have its own authority, it needs to show it can stand up to modern ideas of democracy.

Focusing to be fashionable

It must be lonely at Tomkins. Only last year the likes of J. Hanson, BTR and Williams stood proudly in the diversified industrial sector, giving it a strong representation among Britain's leading companies. With Hanson having sold its tobacco, chemical and electricity businesses and moved to build-

ing materials, Williams joining business services and the new "focusing-for-growth" BTR heading to engineering, Greg Hutchings' guns-to-buns group will be the only conglomerate to admit to the tag left in the FTSE 100.

Ian Strachan's decision to end BTR's quarter of a century as a conglomerate at least shows that he has been listening to what the City has been telling him. There may be some carping about the two-stage process. After all, if Strachan knew he was going to slim the group down to half its size and only keep engineering companies, why did he not say all this when he announced the first set of disposals a year ago? And there must be concern that BTR is selling its packaging business — a star performer during the early-1990s. But Strachan always said it would take time to turn the supertanker around. And if it turns out that selling packaging now — when it needs heavy investment to re-

ignite its growth — is a mistake, then it will be the City's fault as much as Strachan's. You could hardly imagine him asking for a couple of billion to invest in packaging given the City's belief that BTR has no strategy.

But Strachan, like Sir Nigel Rudd at Williams, has answered the clarion call for focus that has rung louder and louder, like an electronic alarm clock, during the last five years. The diversified industrial sector has so underperformed the market that it is no wonder its stalwarts are heading for the hills. Yet the idea that the conglomerate is dead is plainly wrong. Look at General Electric, Hutchison Whampoa or, dare we say it, Granada. After all, what is a company that has television, hotels and rentals if it is not a conglomerate? The idea that a good management should be able to turn its skills to business areas not directly in its own sphere has not died. It is just that many of the stars who made

conglomerates fashionable in the 1980s ran out of ideas in the 1990s.

The Owen Greens and James Hansons of the millennium are out there. Focus is fashionable now but the real issue is management. Managers lead. And Strachan has yet to show that he is anything but a dedicated follower of fashion.

Japan Inc sinking in red ink

Asia's worst economic problem is now Japan. The industrial superpower's recession was supposed to yield a respectable 1.9 per cent rate of growth in 1997-98. That in turn was supposed to allow deficit finance to be run down at last and short-term interest rates edged up to support the yen and keep America sweet.

Instead, it is all going in reverse. A rise in consumption tax from 3 per cent to 5 per cent, appropriately brought in on April 1, produced a mini spree in advance, followed by mass desertion of stores since.

Total output fell 2.9 per cent in the April to June quarter, reversing 1.4 per cent growth in

January to March. To meet official forecasts, growth would have to average 2.1 per cent in each of the next three quarters.

The only way this could happen is if growth is export-led, like the old days. And that means sales to North America and Europe. Japan now faces markets shrinking in Malaysia, South Korea and the other wounded tigers. Political trouble is already resurfacing as trade surpluses grow month by month.

Ten-year bond yields dipped below a lowest-ever 2 per cent at the end of August and share prices measured by the Nikkei index are still sagging at less than half their late 1989 peak. The consequence is that Japan's army of retired people, who rely on the returns on their savings, have no money to spend. Things have become so silly that a rise in interest rates should help to boost consumer spending.

Limelight shunned

THE hefty partnership of Cazenove and Rothschild brought Limelight to the stock market less than a year ago. Since then the kitchens and bathroom group has seen its market value decimated. There were optimistic suggestions that the founder, Stephen Boler, might try to take the group public. Having taken £60 million in profits at the time of the float, Mr Boler understandably prefers to enjoy himself elsewhere.

United Biscuits has to digest £31m provision

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

UNITED BISCUITS reported sharply lower interim profits yesterday because of costly factory disposals, poor crisp sales in Britain and a "Tazo attack" in Australia.

The company made a £31.5 million provision to cover the cost of disposing of its factory in Hjorring, Denmark, and closing its Bromham site in West Lothian. No further factory sales or closures are planned.

As a result of the provision,

pre-tax profit fell from £44.9 million to £13.7 million in the six months to July 12. The company blamed the strong pound for the modest rise in pre-exceptional profit to £45.1 million.

UK sales of its crisps were disappointing in the first half. Combined crisp and snack sales fell 4 per cent, with own-label crisps doing particularly badly. Sales of snacks such as Hula Hoops and Skips and KP nuts were all ahead.

John Warren, finance director, said: "The crisp business is being looked at very carefully." New management has been put in place, but disposal of the business is not being actively considered, he said. Disposals of any poorly performing divisions that fail to improve are not ruled out, however.

In Australia, the group continued to feel the impact of an 18-month-long "Tazo attack" by PepsiCo of the US. The popularity of the collectable plastic discs placed in snack packets by PepsiCo hit sales of United Biscuits products, which control over 50 per cent of the Australian market.

Eric Nicol, chief executive, said that the group's "robust" response — putting alternative plastic toys into United Biscuits packets — had been extremely expensive. "The cost is higher than we anticipated, but we're confident we're doing the right thing," he said. He declined to say exactly how much it had cost the company, but said that Australia remained profitable, although less so than last year. UB's market share has now been stabilised and PepsiCo's only success in Australia had been a slight increase in its grocery market share, he said.

He added that PepsiCo had now given up its Tazo campaign in Australia, and United Biscuits would soon join it by dropping its inclusion of plastic toys in snack packets. The "Tazo attack" is the fourth such incident in 15 years he said. Before Australia, a similar campaign was launched in the Benelux countries.

Elsewhere in Asia, sales grew, with China ahead by 17 per cent.

In Britain, sales of the Linda McCartney frozen vegetarian foods were strongly ahead, although frozen and chilled food sales altogether were down 6 per cent. The company said that McVitie's Co Ahead! low fat snacks were selling well after what it called "UB's most successful ever new product launch".

The company is maintaining its interim dividend at 3.5p on pre-exceptional earnings per share of 6.2p (5.9p).



BRUNNER MOND, the alkaline chemical maker, yesterday reported a 14 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £18.8 million, in the year to June 30 on turnover of £145.7 million, up 5 per cent. Earnings per share were up 11 per cent, to 18.2p, and a final dividend of 5.5p will be

paid on November 10, bringing the total dividend to 8.7p. The shares, which have performed poorly since the company floated last September at 170p, edged up to 152.5p in spite of a statement from David Wertheim, right, the chief executive. He said: "We want the share price to

reflect the value of the company, which I believe is much higher than the price at which it floated." Richard Bell, managing director, left, has seen the group make a slow start to the current year because of the strong pound and economic uncertainty in South East Asia.

Coats Viyella sees decline across clothing divisions

By JENNIFER HANAWALD

A POOR performance from Jaeger, contract clothing and other divisions pushed profits down at the Coats Viyella textiles group in the first half and triggered an 11 per cent drop in its share price yesterday.

Kirk Stephenson, finance director, said investors will have to wait until the year end to hear the results of a strategic review initiated by Michael Ost, chief executive.

Disappointment over an 11 per cent drop in pre-tax profit to £41.5 million and lack of news on future downgrades led to profit forecast downgrades from about £140 million for the full year to between £90 million and £100 million. The shares fell 13p to 108p.

Sir David Alliance, chairman, took the dip in the share price as a buying opportunity, adding a quarter of a million shares to his holdings.

"We are echoing the same themes we articulated in May," Mr Stephenson said. "Some areas are better than last year, others are worse."

Contract clothing incurred an operating loss of £8 million (£2.4 million loss). Restructuring begun last year continued to disrupt production in the hosiery

and women's wear divisions. Good sales growth in Marks & Spencer lines failed to offset the losses.

Fashion retail and branded clothing made £35 million (£9.2 million) after an unpopular Jaeger spring range and weakness in Berhaus's Russian business. Thread, which accounts for almost half of turnover, made £46 million (£48.6 million). Currency translation from overseas units wiped £4.6 million off profits.

Earnings per share were down 15 per cent to 3.4p; the dividend stays at 3.7p.



Alliance bought shares

Troubled Limelight sees shares tumble

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

A DISASTROUS first-half performance and another profit warning from Limelight, the home improvement company floated less than a year ago, triggered a 42 per cent drop in its share price yesterday (Commentary, see this page).

The company said that a "disappointing first half and continuing problems in Portland [its windows division] will mean that the outcome for the year will be significantly lower than previously anticipated".

The company made an interim pre-tax profit of £94,000, compared with £1 million a year ago. It will not pay an

interim dividend. Its shares, which floated at 175p, closed at 37.5p, down 21p.

Sales at Moben Kitchens, its kitchen retailing company, dropped 32 per cent in the first half. Steve Cotter, managing director, blamed a difficult market but also said that a BBC *Watchdog* programme which criticised Moben also had an effect. Limelight is suing the BBC for libel.

Mr Cotter said that Stephen Boler, the former chairman of the group reported to be considering taking the company private again, had written to the board assuring it that this was not his intention.



The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Public Limited Company

Interim Dividend 1997

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Friday, 3rd October, 1997 for the preparation of warrants for an Interim dividend for the year 1997 of 5.1p per 25p Ordinary share payable on Monday, 3rd November, 1997.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar—Lloyds Bank Registrars, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex BN99 6DA, not later than 3pm on 3rd October, 1997.

Share Warrants to Bearer

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 199 which must be deposited at Lloyds Bank Registrars, Receiving Bank Services, Ground Floor, P.O. Box 1000, Antholm House, 71 Queen Street, London EC4N 1SL (not later than 3rd October, 1997, to receive payment on 3rd November, 1997) or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Frères et Cie, 121 boulevard Haussmann, 75382, Paris Cedex 08.

By Order of the Board
Miss J.E. Munsiff
Secretary

Shell Centre,
London SE1 7NA
11th September, 1997

Booker hit by strong pound and weak price of salmon

By ERIC REGULY

CHEAP salmon prices and the expensive pound pushed down profits at Booker, the food processor and distributor. It said that the strength of sterling would continue to put pressure on earnings.

The price of salmon plunged early this year when the Norwegians dumped huge quantities of the fish on the market. The European Commission later intervened by putting a minimum price on salmon. But Booker said that the effect of the minimum price, which was set in euros, "has been completely negated by the

appreciation of the pound". Booker also said that high feed prices had damaged profits at its American poultry operations. Arbor Acres Farm Group and Nicholas Turkey. Charles Bowen, chief executive, said: "Our chicken products are improving steadily, but we expect it will be several years before we can re-establish ourselves as the clear market leader."

Pre-tax profits fell 47 per cent, to £17.2 million, in the 24 weeks to June 14, on turnover that climbed 35 per cent to £2.35 billion. The rise was largely due to the purchase

last year of Nurdin & Peacock, the food wholesaler.

Earnings per share were halved to 4.1p. The interim dividend rises 25 per cent to 8.3p. Booker said full-year profits will fall by about £7 million if sterling's value remains unchanged.

Brokers said the results were in line with expectations and that the shares, which fell 29.5p to 287.5p, were hit by the comments on the currency problems. Mr Bowen said he was confident that Booker could achieve the City profit estimates of 34p to 38p a share in 1998.

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CHANGING TIMES

ECONOMIC VIEW

ANATOLE KALETSKY



Look to an old theory to explain our golden age

Questions about a 'new paradigm' should be directed to Keynes

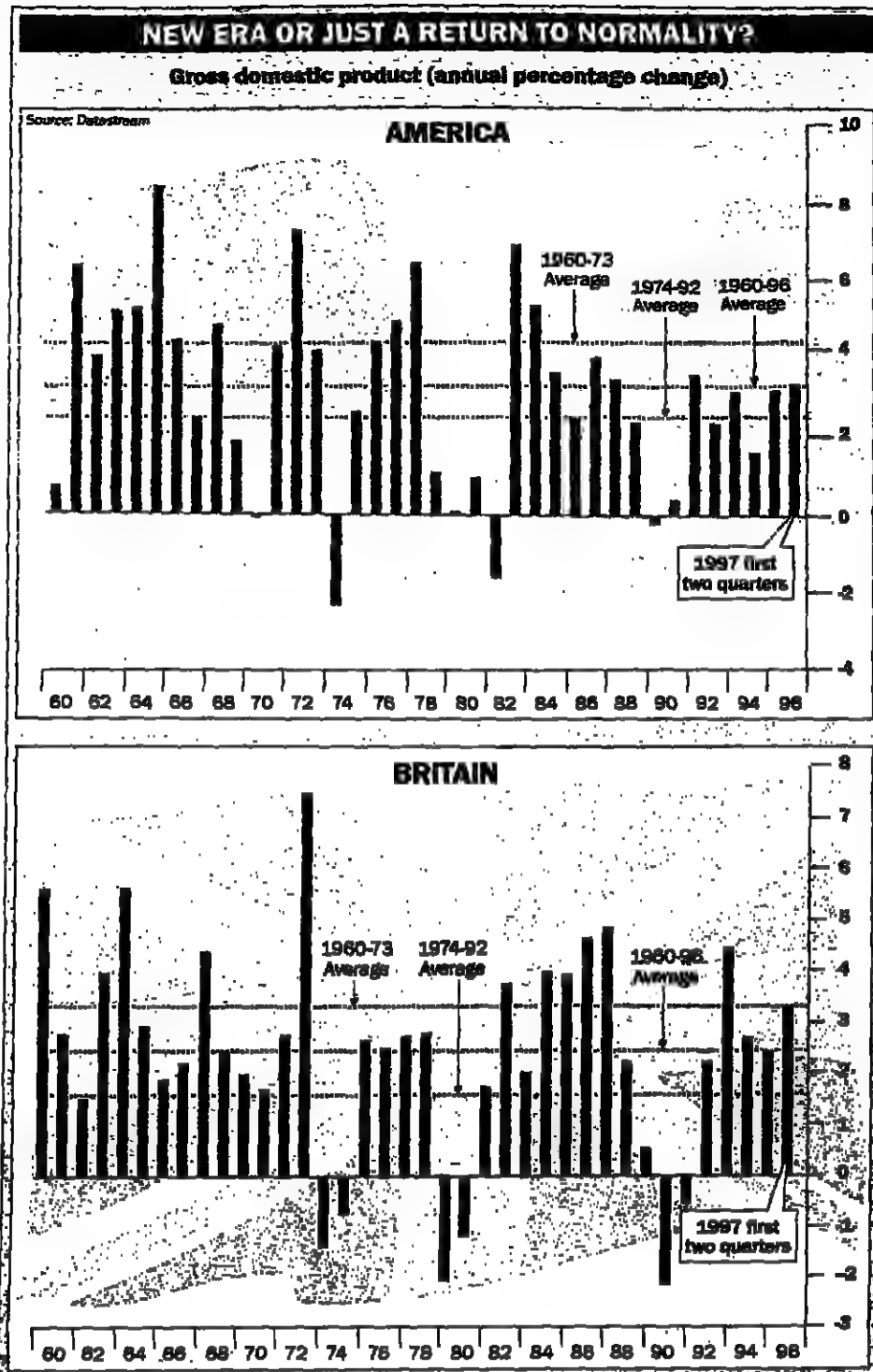
Last week I explained some of the cyclical reasons why the British and American economies both seem so healthy at present. But the fact that both countries are now in what Americans call the "sweet spot" of their economic cycles may not be sufficient to explain the happy combination of low inflation and full employment that they now enjoy. It will certainly cease to be sufficient if this period of prosperity and low inflation continues much longer, as most of the financial portents suggest that it will.

Economists and investors have therefore started to wonder whether some totally new kind of analysis is needed to explain what is going on. The financial markets especially are buzzing with talk of a "new paradigm", to borrow again from the American parlance.

When seasoned observers of human affairs hear financiers enthuse about a new paradigm or a new era, they instinctively reach for their revolvers, or at least get a tight grip on their wallets. In this case, however, such cynicism seems only half-justified.

The first point to note is that new paradigm theories can be divided into two quite separate kinds. One type asserts that the long-term sustainable rate of growth in the American (or British or world) economy has increased because of globalisation, technology or some other exogenous boost. The other type claims nothing about the trend rate of growth, but merely says that economies can now operate at lower levels of unemployment than in the 1970s and 1980s without inflation getting out of control.

The first type of theory — which claims a permanent acceleration in the trend rate of growth — is more exciting, since it implies a permanently faster growth in everyone's standard of living (and also incidentally a permanently higher level of corporate profit growth and therefore of a permanent bull market in shares). The second theory is much more modest. It suggests only that full employment can now be attained without triggering inflation. This limited version of the new paradigm means only a one-off gain to the economy as the jobless are put back to work. Once full employment is reached, as it arguably now has been in America (although clearly not in Britain or Europe) it is back to business as usual: long-run growth of about 2 per cent annually in real incomes, profits and investment — and no particular reason to assume accelerating productivity or a continuing



stock market boom. To judge by the recent falls in stock markets around the world, investors are just beginning to understand the difference between these two versions of the new paradigm. And the markets are probably right. There is plenty of evidence for the more limited version, which argues that full employment can be maintained without inflation, but there is little reason to believe that the new era of full employment will also be a period of ever-rising profits and accelerating productivity growth.

To explain a permanent acceleration in productivity requires all kinds of bold assumptions about the benefits of new technology and globalisation. But untested theories about a new golden age are not required to explain why full employment has returned. It is quite sufficient to revive some of the most familiar notions of modern economics, namely modern Keynesian theory, also known as the neo-classical synthesis, which was taught in most universities and schools in Britain, America and Japan until the 1980s.

but (significantly) never caught on in Germany. This theory taught that a decent approximation to the admirable goal of permanent full employment could be achieved if the government and central bank actively managed demand by manipulating interest rates, exchange rates, taxes and public spending. No country could hope to fine-tune the economy so exactly that the business cycle would be eliminated completely, but the timely and judicious use of monetary and fiscal instruments to manage demand could prevent the long depressions and wild swings between boom and bust that were widely assumed to be inescapable features of capitalism before Keynes came along.

The relevance of this brief historical digression should be clear to anyone who follows the financial news. Hardly a week goes by without the Reuters screens being set ablaze by some new announcement about "the timely and judicious use of fiscal and monetary instruments to manage

age demand" in Washington, London, Frankfurt or Tokyo. (The Bundesbank still formally denies that it is in the demand management business, but policymakers should be judged by actions, not words.) Instead of seeking a new paradigm, therefore, why not revert to the old paradigm of pragmatic Keynesian economics to explain the present state of affairs?

A Keynesian who fell asleep in the late 1960s and woke today would not be surprised by the present state of the world economy. In America, where the Federal Reserve Board has been operating under a dual mandate to preserve price stability and maximise employment, these objectives have broadly been achieved. In Britain, similar policies were adopted after Black Wednesday and are broadly accepted even by the newly independent Bank of England.

Even the Bundesbank has, since last year, been stimulating demand by cutting interest rates and facilitating a weaker mark. The result has been predictable — a sharp increase in German exports, leading to

higher incomes and (through the so-called multiplier) to signs of recovery in domestic demand. Only in Japan, where aggressive demand management policies yielded disappointing results so far — and there the economy was recovering strongly until the Government crushed it with a badly timed tax increase that would have sent Keynes spinning in his grave.

Our Keynesian Rip Van Winkle would therefore see no need for new paradigms in the world economy today. Yet he would be puzzled. The puzzle would not be why demand management was doing so well in America and Britain today. Instead he would ask why Keynesian policy did so badly from the late 1960s onwards that it had to be abandoned, leaving the world to suffer from mass unemployment for 20 years.

This is the question that ought to be the focus of the "new paradigm" debate. Instead of seeking the magic elixir that might explain the miracle of non-inflationary expansion — be it technology, globalisation or even price stability itself — it would be more useful to focus on the pathologies that made full employment unattainable in the previous two decades. For a Briton, the most important of these pathologies was the near-total resistance of trade union leaders to modern working practices and adequate levels of profit. In other countries there were other problems — ranging from excessive taxation and public spending to oppressive regulation and social unrest.

What all these pathologies had in common was that they grew out of the prosperity of the 1950s and 1960s. They were by-products of the collapse of social discipline that followed the longest period of full employment and prosperity in history. When wealth creation seemed to become an automatic process, people naturally grew less interested in how further wealth could be created than how it might be shared out. A long era of full employment is bound to encourage such a breakdown of discipline in any democratic market economy, as Michael Kalecki, the great Polish neo-Marxist economist, argued in his prophetic critique of Keynesian policies in 1943.

Instead of viewing the present as some kind of aberration, we should perhaps consider the 1970s and 1980s to have been the aberration. All that has happened in the 1990s is that the world economy has moved cautiously back towards a normal steady state of moderate prosperity and full employment, with America leading, Britain behind it and Europe bringing up the rear.

If that sounds too much like wishful thinking, watch the stock markets slide as investors realise that what lies ahead is neither boom nor recession, but a long spell of moderate non-inflationary growth when the struggle over the income distribution between wages and profits will gradually resume.

Energis flotation puts the seal on spirited recovery

Eric Reguly on how new life was breathed into the Grid's telecoms arm

Energis, the telecoms network owned by the National Grid, has come back from the dead and is headed for a stock market flotation that could make it one of the largest quoted players in the sector. The initial public offering is expected this year and may value the company at £1 billion or more.

Energis's flotation comes less than four years after its launch. The company began life in a blaze of publicity in 1993 and promptly disappeared from view. In the past two years it has received virtually no press coverage and the average consumer has no idea what it does.

Its business concept was brilliant. The problem was the National Grid, whose financial forecasts for Energis could only be described as overly ambitious. It was also clear that the Grid, whose business is running a monopoly electricity transmission network, had little idea how to operate a telecoms company in a highly competitive industry.

The Grid built Europe's most advanced telecoms network in 19 months by slinging high-capacity fibre-optic cables underneath electricity pylons. The 4,700-km network cost only £337 million because no digging was required. As a result it could offer services to business customers at cut-rate prices. The Grid's masters sat back and waited for the cables to hum with activity. They did not.

Energis emerged as just another wholesaler when the country was awash with telecom capacity. A few high-profile customers were recruited, notably the BBC, which used Energis to send radio and TV signals from studios to the main transmission towers, but they were not enough to fill even a

small fraction of the network's capacity.

As losses piled up, the criticism began. The launch of Energis coincided with the "fat cat" saga, in which the Grid directors played a central role. David Jefferies, the Grid chairman, and his colleagues were accused of wasting money on a business they did not understand.

In an effort to restore confidence, the Grid began hunting for an Energis investor or buyer. The Grid believed a partner would help to shore up Energis's finances, provide customers and perhaps make it part of a pan-European or even global network. AT&T, America's largest long-distance operator, came close to a deal but the price was too high.

Energis's fortunes began to change early last year when Mike Grabiner, the director of BT's European operations, became chief executive. He came to the conclusion that Energis could never make it as a seller of wholesale telecom capacity; BT, although more expensive, would always have the advantage.

Under Grabiner, Energis has expanded its services. It is installing a virtual private network for voice communications at Boots and is following up with a data transmission system to connect the chemist's 1,300

shops. The system allows the head office to monitor sales and adjust orders instantly. Similar systems are being built for Eurostar and Virgin Atlantic bookings offices.

In the past year or so, demand for "broadband" capacity has exploded with the rapid rise of Internet services, toll-free 0800 numbers, and high-speed data and video transmission. Increasingly, Energis's network is being called upon to transmit these services. The company now has some 400 customers and expects to report earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation in the current financial year. In the year to March, revenues more than doubled to £97 million. Analysts forecast a 25 per cent annual growth, leading to estimated revenues of £1.2 billion within five years.

The Grid is no longer looking for a buyer for Energis, though a trade sale will not be ruled out until the flotation is officially launched. Under pressure from shareholders, the Grid wants to ensure that Energis's value is reflected in its share price. Flotation up to 49 per cent of Energis seems the best way to accomplish this. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the Grid's financial adviser, hopes to float Energis by the end of the year.

The company still faces enormous challenges. Lack of direct access to most of its customers is a shortcoming that may turn into an enormous liability. Unless it develops a local access network, it will have to keep paying competitors to transmit signals to and from its own network. In the information age, direct access to the customer is considered the route to riches.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Bank's practice may be the reason for late payment

From Mr D. Bonfield
Sir, Your supplement on prompt payment (September 9) suggests slow payers are choosing this route at the expense of their suppliers. Perhaps the reasons for late payments should have been explored. I put forward the case of my small British manufacturing company as an example. After an excellent relationship with a major bank (Barclays) for many years, a new young and inexperienced bank manager

replaced our existing manager, who was promoted. In what I understand is common practice under these circumstances, he aimed to clear out any lending that was not fully secured and, as a result, our overdraft was removed. Severe cashflow problems resulted, leading to late payment to many of our suppliers. Our only other option was to close down the business, but fortunately after over nine months of considerable stress, we have

pulled through and saved both the company and the jobs of all our employees.

I would fully support moves to make illegal "repayable on demand" terms that are currently imposed on UK overdrafts, to reduce the power of the banks over the survival of small businesses. Yours faithfully, D. BONFIELD, PO Box 2329, Santa Rosa, CA 95409, USA

Ring changes

I HEAR of an unexpected parting of the ways. For four years Sir Tim Bell has been the public mouthpiece of Lord Lloyd-Webber, whose operas have never been my taste but who seemed a decent enough chap when his company, the Really Useful Group, was on the stock market back in the 1980s.

Now Lloyd-Webber has hired an extraordinary trio to replace him next month. The three are Peter Brown, former chief executive of Ap-

ple, as in the Beatles rather than computers, silly, and in charge of Lloyd-Webber's publicity in the US for years; Sir Nicholas Lloyd, former editor of *The Express*; and Howell James, John Major's political secretary before the election.

Lloyd-Webber tells me: "We wouldn't have moved away from Lowe Bell (Sir Tim's company) were it not for one huge thing. Peter Brown is my oldest friend in the business. When he decided he wanted to set up in London I couldn't really not go with him." No suggestion of penny-pinching: the new team will be paid the same as Lowe Bell, he says. But while the composer may be cementing an old relationship with Brown, who is godfather to his son, another one may be frayed by the move. Sir Nicholas's wife, Eve, is herself godmother to Sir Tim's son.

□ BTR is selling Silvertown, as part of disposals announced yesterday. This was the business after which the conglomerate's, sorry, the engineer's, head office, is named, so this will no longer



do. BTR has spent months pushing its corporate message to anyone who will listen. Wait for the inevitable renaming as Focus For Growth House.

Gold touch

ON the same subject, those disposals offer a golden opportunity for Simon Robertson to justify his enormous salary at Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank he joined this summer. Or is it an unenviable conflict of interest? Robertson is one of the new non-executives at BTR announced less than a fortnight ago.

Normally, when a company flags such sales, a bank is al-

ready in place to field calls from interested parties. Strangely, BTR's Ian Strachan would not say yesterday who was taking on the job. I am sure the normal beauty parades have been carried out and the work has been awarded on the most competitive terms. But it would be interesting to see how much goes Goldman Sachs's way.

Free bank

SIR BRUCE PATULLO of the Bank of Scotland may not favour devolution, but separatists were at work there yesterday. A London customer, account in credit, tried to withdraw cash; the machine swallowed her card. Had the annexation of Sassenach funds in Scottish banks begun? I phoned, and the bank blamed "technical problems" with some accounts. Behind, I could just make out a Scottish voice crying "Freedom!"

Bad omen

DENTON HALL, the City lawyer, has announced the winner of its name-the-super-SIB competition. The City's new regulator is working under the deeply dull acronym of NewRo. The lawyers, in an unusual rush of generosity, of-

fered a jargon of champagne to anyone to think of something more exciting. Alas, they have chosen the even duller "Board of Financial Supervision", submitted by Anita Bhaskar of Daiwa Europe.

My own suggestion came nowhere. The new body will take six months of consultation to set up, another six months to put together and six years before it gets around to doing anything useful. I suggested a rather neat 666 logo and the working name Darnian. For some reason they refused to take me seriously.

MARTIN WALLER



Sir Bruce Patullo might have a few separatists on his Bank of Scotland staff

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Equities suffer further sell-offs

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1997	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BANKS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BREWERIES, PUBS & REST							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BUILDING MATERIALS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
CHEMICALS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ELECTRICITY							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ELECTRONIC & ELECT							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ENGINEERING							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ENGINEERING, VEHICLES							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
FOOD MANUFACTURERS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
HEALTHCARE							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
HOUSEHOLD GOODS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
INSURANCE							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
INVESTMENT TRUSTS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
LEISURE & HOTELS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
MEDIA							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
MINING							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
OTHER FINANCIAL							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PHARMACEUTICALS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PRINTING & PAPER							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
PROPERTY							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
RETAILERS, FOOD							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
RETAILERS, GENERAL							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
SUPPORT SERVICES							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TELECOMMUNICATIONS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TEXTILES & APPAREL							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
TRANSPORT							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
WATER							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
BRITISH FUNDS							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
SHORTS (under 5 years)							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
LONGS (over 15 years)							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
UNDATED							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
MEDIAN (5 to 15 years)							
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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...at growth in
...surge in
...read as talks
...of a po-
...stance can
...B.A. nor is a
...other company
...achieved a
...defense orders
...to earnings in
...aircraft profits
...on to sell

to make a profit from it. It could prove an easy way to keep its price inevitably, price will increase. The company admits it is a long way from a profit. Centrica is not without the prospect of a rapid return on its shares cannot be a rating.

Year	Percentage
1950	62
1955	65
1960	68
1965	70
1970	72
1975	75
1980	78

[illegible]

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

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1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

100

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Whistler (1973). The total chlorophyll content was determined by the method of Arar and Cook (1980). The carotenoid content was determined by the method of Lichtenthaler and Whistler (1973). The total carotenoid content was determined by the method of Arar and Cook (1980). The total protein content was determined by the method of Lowry et al. (1951). The total lipid content was determined by the method of Bligh and Dyer (1959). The total carbohydrate content was determined by the method of Dubois and Gilles (1950). The total nucleic acid content was determined by the method of Burton (1956). The total ash content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total moisture content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total dry matter content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total organic acid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total alkaloid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total saponin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total tannin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total flavonoid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total phenol content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total terpenoid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total steroid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total glycoside content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total alkaloid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total saponin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total tannin content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total flavonoid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total phenol content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total terpenoid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total steroid content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990). The total glycoside content was determined by the method of AOAC (1990).

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1. The first step in the process of determining the value of a business is to identify the assets and liabilities of the business. This is done by reviewing the balance sheet and other financial statements. The assets are then categorized into tangible and intangible assets. Tangible assets include property, equipment, and inventory. Intangible assets include patents, trademarks, and goodwill. Liabilities are also identified and categorized into current and long-term liabilities.

EUT

The clash of tanker-sized egos justifying for newspaper. Froh and loathing at the Crucifix. Limp wrists raised in anger. Handbags at 20 paces. Yes, it's Controversy Time again in the arts. Which usually means that somebody needs to shift a lot of tickets. Welcome to *Sensation*, the lovely new show of quips, gure and genitalia at the Royal Academy.

The exhibition isn't launched until next week, but you may feel that you know its contents intimately already. It opens the 229-year-old RA's doors to that underclass clan of sheep-pickin', hyper-spinning, corpse-londin', Young British Artists. And the press is pickin' handsomely on the "outrage" steaming from the Very Old British Artists who, for some reason, see little artistic merit in pickled sharks, severed limbs, enlarged autopsy photographs of bullet wounds, and inflatable dolls with improbably displaced private parts.

For myself, I can take it or leave it. To misquote the late Peter Cook, why should I go to the RA to

Can the fossils fight off the shark?

experience mutilation, morbidity, perversion and bestiality? I can get all that at home. And I also find it hard to take seriously an art debate conducted between dozens of figures whose combined talent would almost, but not quite, amount to a quarter-power Bacon or a one-per-cent Picasso.

Nevertheless a Great Arts Controversy is always fun, because all the highfalutin moral and cultural arguments can usually be boiled down to squabbles about money or status. And *Sensation* is a fascinating example, because it brings into conflict three groups with entirely different motives.

In the Red-In-Tooth-and-Claw Corner are the Young Brits, the "Hirsins and worse". Their motive is obvious enough: to shock their way to fame and fortune. I have no objection to that, though I wish they would stop telling us how brave they are for "looking death in the face" in their art. What on

earth has the whole of Britain been doing for the past fortnight? And I also wish they would stop sniggering at their prime benefactor, Charles Saatchi, in "off the record" conversations with journalists. If you must slag off your patron, do it like a man: to his face, while ripping up his latest cheque.

Then, in the Arsenic-and-Old-Lace Corner, are the crusty old fops who form a sizeable chunk of the RA membership. It isn't hard to guess their motive either: pure jealousy. They hate the Young Brits because the kids are getting fame and commissions for some pretty dubious art. Perhaps we should sympathise. After all, a portrait of Myra Hindley done with children's handprints does not exactly lift the heart, for all its alleged metaphorical power.

But the RA crusties forfeited any right to sympathy long ago. For decades they let the Summer Exhibition dwindle into laughable



RICHARD MORRISON

mediocrity. Last December their finances were revealed to be in disarray. Modest reforms of their rules (mostly laid down by George III) have been resisted furiously. In short, they have painted themselves into a still-life called *Irrelevance, With Fossils*.

And in the third corner? There stand the RA professionals, notably its secretary David Gordon and its exhibitions secretary Norman Rosenthal. Somehow they have to balance the books and drag the old place into the 21st century. To do the former, they need exhibitions that will have the punters queuing all the way to Piccadilly Circus. Unfortunately, the top crowd-pullers — the continent-hopping impressionist blockbusters — cost millions, and the RA is strapped both for cash and big sponsors.

But on the RA's own doorstep is art that is relatively cheap, headline-grabbing and bound to attract thousands of curious spectators. Enter pickled shark, enter severed limbs. And if *Sensation* also causes a flurry of resignations among the old crusties, well, that's a bonus for Rosenthal and Gordon. They will be well on the way to dragging the place into the 21st

century as well. You have to admit: as art it might be no great shakes, but as a battle manoeuvre *Sensation* could well be sensational.

Meanwhile, sit back and enjoy what promises to be a cracking row between new Labour's cultural mandarins and the Arts Council of England. The People's Government, itching to put its stamp on arts policy, is getting increasingly irritated by the gentle waft of inertia emanating from the Arts Council. And little wonder. Four months have elapsed since Mary Allen's notorious "transfer" from being the Arts Council's secretary-general to running its biggest client, the Royal Opera House. Yet there is still no successor in sight.

Indeed, so ineptly was the job advertised (briefly in mid-August), and consequently so modest the quality of applicant attracted, that the whole process has been started

again. Meanwhile, Lord Gowrie, the Arts Council's suave chairman, swans round the country on an eccentric tour reading Basil Buntings poetry to harpsichord accompaniment — a tour subsidised by an Arts Council grant.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is mild-mannered to a fault, but even he must be miffed by this rudderless drift. Who is keeping a close eye on all those multi-million-pound lottery projects, for instance, if the Arts Council has nobody at the top to accept responsibility?

I fear that it is time for the noble Gowrie to find another congenial quango to ease him gently towards his free bus pass. If the Government is really committed to taking the arts to the people, the Arts Council needs a leadership that believes in the idea. It also needs an influx of top people unimpaired by the murky machinations of the past year and it needs them now. If Chris Smith hasn't got the stomach to tackle that, he got as well put in for his transfer to the Ministry of Paper-Clips before it is forced on him.



Troll with a soul: Antony Sher (centre) gives "an heroically anti-heroic performance" as Cyrano de Bergerac

The nose has it

The Cyranoes we have seen in recent years — Keith Michell, Derek Jacobi, Robert Lindsay — have been fine, upstanding fellows with the ill-luck to have been born with over-prominent hooters. Antony Sher is not like that at all. Even if Apollo had donated him his nose at birth, he would still be far from having that Olympian look.

He is a small, squat creature with a bony red beak and black frizz sprouting from the top of his head and most parts of his face. And throughout

Gregory Doran's production he wears the same tattered black jacket, with the hole in the elbow showing what may be fur beneath. At times his Cyrano looks like a throw-back to the stage of evolution when our ancestors had to decide either to be birds or to start swinging from the trees.

Tom Manton, who played Rostand's hero for the Scots company Communicado a few years ago, had a rough look too. But he took the logical next step, which was to underplay Cyrano's romantic yearnings. Sher does the opp-

THEATRE
Cyrano de Bergerac
Swan, Stratford

osite. He emphasises them, adding hints of an inner fragility. The result is a more paradoxical, more complete character: a troll with soul.

Doran's production runs over three hours, but is not overloaded with scenic effects, and does not seem slow or fussy. On the contrary, his cast kept me rooted to the familiar old tale of the proboscically challenged poet and soldier who self-denyingly woos and wins his own best beloved for a verbally challenged rival.

The admirable Alexandra Cullen adds a surprising amount of sly humour to the wide-eyed rapture of the beautiful Roxane. As the handsome Christian, Raymond Coulthard comes across as a gangling Sloane Ranger, as inept at managing his hat as coping with words.

As for Cyrano's comrades-in-arms, they are a loud, crude crowd who take pride in running amok amid the pots and pans of the pastry shop run by Geoffrey Freshwater's amiable Raguenau. They call themselves Gascons but might

almost be a load of Gazzas. And there are moments when only Sher's quick wit and way with language differentiates his Cyrano from them. He is one of the lads.

But what Sher suggests, uniquely in my experience, is that this is the expression of insecurity. He is lonely, bashful, nervous with women. Indeed, there is something unformed, even childish about the accomplished swordsman and writer. You sense his fear when he wrongly gets the idea that his boyhood playmate, Roxane, may actually fancy him. You can see and hear his relief when he is asked personally to fight 100 men before their meeting. That's a cinch beside embracing her.

Does Sher push the reading too far? One would say so if he were not also capable of growing with a formidable rage and, more importantly, injecting a genuine intensity of longing into the love lyrics Cyrano dispatches to Roxane's balcony from the shadows below. Indeed, so much does he put into the role that sweat streams from his face, threatening to detach his nose and send it floating across the stage like an upturned dinghy. Altogether, an heroically anti-heroic performance.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THE children who attended last Monday's Junior Prom, *Wet Wet Wet*, at the Albert Hall were invited by *The Times* to become music critics for the day. The response was overwhelming: hundreds of reviews reached us within 48 hours, all brimming with enthusiasm and great fun to read. Clearly the future of arts journalism is rosy.

One thanks go to all the teachers and parents who kept the fax wires humming. But chiefly, thanks to the pupils who responded so vividly. Choosing the best reviews was very hard: in the end we selected three that we felt conveyed the most about the concert, irrespective of the writer's age.

So congratulations to Faith Locker-Marsh of Winchester House School, Bradley Christopher Bradish of the Bulmershe School, Reading, and Lucy Simms of Badminton Junior School, Bristol. To their schools go bundles of compact discs and concert tickets. Here are the winning reviews:

The title on the programme said *Wet Wet Wet*. "Great," I thought, "perhaps this won't be boring after all. Mardi Fello will be there."

Wrong! Tony Robinson was there, though, presenting the programme. And Ronald Corp, the conductor, was certainly not wet. He was jolly and got very involved in the music.

The *Thunder and Lightning* Polka had to be my favourite, with the large drum thunder-

Rain didn't stop play, or your reviews

Hundreds of youngsters turned into *Times* critics at *Wet Wet Wet*, the Junior Prom held earlier this week

ing around the Albert Hall and my spine. I'll sing you a song of the fish of the sea was wonderful. By rubbing the tops of glasses a musical effect made a marvellous background to the piece.

It was a pity we were tucked away where we could not hear to their best effect all the pieces. However, it was clever how they found so many modern water themes to mix with the older pieces. *Ol' Man River* stood happily with *Jaws*.

At the end we sang *Rule, Britannia* and *Pomp and Circumstance*, which was still in my head as we passed all the flowers at Kensington Palace for Princess Diana. It seemed as if the flowers and the music went together.

LOCKER-MARSH (10)

Tony Robinson stepped on to a huge stage, jumping around with his arms aloft. The Albert Hall erupted with

the sound of 6,000 screaming children, ranging from 4 to 14 years of age. I looked down from the balcony and saw a sea of colours from all the uniforms.

Johann Strauss's *The Blue Danube* was a piece that I recognised. I loved the way it transformed from the beautiful sound of the harp to the bellow of the drum. But *The Sky Boat Song* was probably my favourite, because of the sound of the orchestra and the choir mixing together. It reminded me of my grandma singing me to sleep when I was little.

One of the audience's favourites was *The Sorcerer's Apprentice* by Paul Dukas, which featured in the film *Fantasia*. Robinson read the script from *Fantasia* over the music. I closed my eyes and found that I could imagine every word.

The last few songs, with *Rule, Britannia* and *Land of*

Hope and Glory, were something for which nobody could prepare themselves. The atmosphere was electric: jumpers and blazers being thrown, not to mention paper aeroplanes and song sheets. Even the musicians were really enjoying themselves. I hope to be back next year.

CHRISTOPHER BRADISH (12)

Monday was a wonderfully sunny day and I felt superb. It had been three hours from Bristol to London, and the birds had finished my lunch in Kensington. It was 15 minutes to the Albert Hall. As I walked in I was amazed, in front of me was the most magnificent building I'd ever seen.

Tony Robinson was full of jokes and got the audience to do the most outrageous actions. Ever tried swimming down a sewage pipe? Robert Poulton, a baritone, had a magnificent voice that echoed round the hall. We all sang *Rule Britannia* so loudly, and everyone was throwing paper aeroplanes. Hilarious!

The orchestra wore different coloured T-shirts so you knew which family they were in. The hall was dark red with gold trimmings. I was sitting right up close to the stage so I had a perfect view. The percussionists seemed to have the most fun, bashing drums and bells, and there was a wonderful glass harmonica which gave off an eerie sound. Perfect for a song called *Aquarium*. It was a most fantastic day.

LUCY SIMMS (10)

Just some of the names Tom and Felicity will be dropping this month.

Vladimir Ashkenazy
Kevin Bacon
Anne Bancroft
Cecilia Bartoli
Mikhail Baryshnikov
Tony Bennett
Art Blakey
Richard Burton
Darcey Bussell
Tyne Daly
John Dankworth
Placido Domingo
Viviana Durante
Dizzy Gillespie
Bernard Haitink
Nigel Havers
Frankie Howard
BB King
Cleo Laine
Matthew Modine
Luciano Pavarotti
Itzhak Perlman
Vincent Price
Vanessa Redgrave
Keanu Reeves
Diana Rigg
Joan Sutherland
Elizabeth Taylor
Kiri Te Kanawa
Maxim Vengerov



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Friday 19th September
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Bell-bottomed blues



Ocean Colour Scene: still churning out that Sixties prog-rock sound on the competent, but uninspiring, *Marchin' Already*

LONDON

BBC PROMS: Due to the sudden death of Sir George Solti last week, tonight's concert will be both a memorial to Solti and a celebration of his life. The last night of the Proms tomorrow contains the usual mix of serious and light music, but the celebration of Solti's life is the main event. Andrew Davis leads the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a programme which includes a UK premiere by Judith Weir, and concludes with *Die Meistersinger* and *Die Walküre*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. (2)

AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE: Trevor Nunn directs Ian McKellen as the spy doctor pitting himself against his community to expose a local scandal. Only the third London production of this century for Ibsen's explosive play. National Theatre (Owl), South Bank, SE1 (0171-325 2525). In preview from tonight, 7.15pm. Opens September 19, 7pm. In rep. (2)

GIULIO CESARE: The Royal Opera opens its first post-war season with Verdi's dramatic and compelling opera. For Bolton conducts, with Amanda Rocco in the title role. During the company's four-week stay here a further two new productions will be performed: *Macbeth* and *Don Carlos*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-434 8881). Tomorrow, 6.30pm. (2)

WINDHOLE WISDOM: The Philharmonia Quartet return to the Wigmore Hall tonight (7.30pm) after a ten-year absence. On the programme are works by Brahms, Webern and

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargreaves

Schubert: On Sunday morning (11.30am) there is Schubert's *Symphony No. 9* in the planned programme of Verdi's *Requiem*. The Last Night of the Proms tomorrow contains the usual mix of serious and light music, but the celebration of Solti's life is the main event. Andrew Davis leads the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a programme which includes a UK premiere by Judith Weir, and concludes with *Die Meistersinger* and *Die Walküre*. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. (2)

ELSEWHERE
BAGINBURY: Although the play *Ten*, which opened here last night, is written by Victoria Wood, she is, in fact,

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not appearing in it in person as stated yesterday. Instead the lead role is taken by Caroline O'Connor. Played in tandem with Richard Harris's comedy, he is *Blackmail* (1 Sat).

CARDIFF: Start of the Welsh National Opera's autumn season with a new production of Beethoven's only opera, *Fidelio*. Suzanne Murphy returns to the WNO to sing the role of Leonore, with Adrian Thompson making his WNO debut as the unjustly imprisoned Don Fernando. Cardiff Royal Opera House, Park Place (01222 878889). Tonight, 7.15pm. (2)

LIVERPOOL: The first concert of the season for the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and its new conductor, Peter Altrichter, is a performance of Haydn's magnificent choral work, the *Creation*. The orchestra is joined by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir with the soprano Catherine Mackintosh, tenor Neil Archer and bass Michael George. Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, (0151-709 5789). Tomorrow, 7.30pm. (2)

LONDON GALLERIES
Antony Gormley: *Refracted* (10.30-12.00). Sculpture by Gormley. St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-638 8881). Mon-Sat, 10.30am-6pm. (2)

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OCEAN COLOUR SCENE
Marchin' Already
(Universal/MCA MCD 60048 £13.49)

ALTHOUGH routinely reviled for their attachment to certain progressive rock clichés of the 1960s, Ocean Colour Scene have won an army of admirers for whom the historical references merely provide a reassuring frisson of conventionality.

However, it is safe to say that neither their detractors nor the million or so people who bought the group's *Moseley Shoals* album are in for too many surprises with *Marchin' Already*.

With its liberal use of backwards-taped guitar, phasing and Leslie speaker effects, the production by Brendan Lynch is often comically retro, and never more so than on the opening track, *Hundred Mile High City*, a bustling tour de force of skipped beats, awkward pushes and furious blues-rock riffing by guitarist Steve Crook.

From there they settle into *Better Day*, a wistful, Beatles-influenced tune with a descending piano motif, which showcases the soulful vocals of Simon Fowler. As with so many of the band's songs, the lyrics are cryptic to the point of meaninglessness, but oddly evocative: "Harry carried on in his usual way/And Minnie went inside/And came out once and we both cried/And Minnie blew my head away".

There are some fine performances, especially the delicate soulful hybrid *Half a Dream Away* and the epic, heartbreak ballad, *It's a Beautiful Thing*, featuring the voice of 1960s soul star P.P. Arnold. But for all the energy and expertise of the musicians, the production and songwriting rarely amounts to more than the ersatz sum of its inspirations.

HURRICANE!
Hurricane!
(Creation CRECD 206 £13.99)

IF Ocean Colour Scene are to be criticised for their lack of originality, where does that leave a bunch of Johnny-come-latelys such as Hurricane? So derivative they couldn't even come up with a name that wasn't already taken, this is the group led by guitarist Andy Bell, formerly with pre-Britpop also-rans Ride.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

DAVID TOOP
Spirit World
(Virgin 7243 8 44748 £15.99)

A SCHOLAR and archivist of all things ambient, David Toop is gradually laying down a substantial body of his own work in between organising Virgin's *Ocean of Sound* series of compilations and sundry other projects.

Whereas on previous al-

bums Toop has tended to shy away from anything likely to be mistaken for a melody or a rhythm, on *Spirit World* he drops his guard long enough to present *Spirits Shimmered* Among the *Live People*, a gently drifting, 24-minute noodle underpinned by a light jazz-funk groove which forms a relaxed if unremarkable centrepiece of the album.

More dramatic is the claustrophobic atmosphere of *Sleeping Powder*, an eerie meeting of the worlds of David Lynch and the Aphex Twin, and its companion piece *Ceremony Viewed Through* Faces in a Dream.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Despite negating a good 20 years of technological progress with their meat and potatoes guitar-band sound, their songwriting betrays little in the way of roots or foundations reaching beyond their labelmates Oasis, in whose image this album is fashioned and in whose shadow it is destined to remain.

A handful of tracks, such as the first single, *Step into my World*, suggest a modest talent for spinning out a grand, swirling guitar chorus and carrying a catchy chorus, but more typical of the album as a whole is the painfully obvious chord sequence, plodding mid-tempo rhythm and facile title of *Faces in a Dream*.

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Spirit World
(Virgin 7243 8 44748 £15.99)

NEW POP ALBUMS

Iron Stilt, a sinister fantasy/horror narrative which Toop intones in a ghostly whisper. Ambient music can sometimes seem awfully waffly, but there is some real meat here.

MARK MORRISON
Only God Can Judge Me
(WEA 0630-9539 £8.99)

WHETHER he is a victim of prejudice or just another pop star with a persecution complex, Mark Morrison has certainly wasted no time in coping his colourful life experiences of the past 12 months into his art. The prurient

reportage of Morrison's anti-social behaviour, and his six-week stay in prison for threatening a police officer, is all grist to the mill, so much so that it is difficult to respond to his "mini-LP" *Only God Can Judge Me* as anything other than a crude PR exercise.

A swiftly assembled, stop-gap collection of tracks, it starts with a pair of plummy-voiced newscasters reciting snippets of reports about Morrison's antics, and ends with a gospel choir singing a brief Morrison composition modestly entitled *Lord's Prayer*. Strip away the rest of the padding — including a one-line interview with Morrison on Radio 1 and a live version of his biggest hit, *Return of the Mack* — and there is enough to make a reasonable 12.

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TOP TEN ALBUMS

1 (1) *Be Here Now* Oasis (Creation)
2 (2) *OK Computer* Radiohead (Parlophone)
3 (3) *White on Blonde* Texas (Mercury)
4 (4) *The Fat of the Land* Prodigy (XL Recordings)
5 (5) *Calling All Stations* Genesis (Virgin)
6 (6) *Much Love* Shola Ama (WEA)
7 (7) *New Forms* Roni Size/Reprazent (Talkin' Loud)
8 (8) *Mouth to Mouth* Laveille (China)
9 (9) *Fun with the Teletubbies* Cast Recording (BBC)
10 (10) *Spice* Spice Girls (Virgin)

Figure in brackets denotes last week's position

Humbug in the wind

Elton John aside, pop's tributes to the Princess seem to be rather lacking in sincerity

The grieving process is a strange and misty thing — which of us knows how we will react to the death of someone close, until such an event should occur? For instance, I was eight when my grandmother died, and I responded by eating a whole malt loaf and then vomiting it out of the landing window on to the shed roof. Between retches, I sang *Yesterday* by the Beatles in a quavery little voice. Until that moment, I had no idea that this would be my chosen method of expressing grief.

As musicians are compelled to express their emotions through their art, so the Elton John song to Princess Diana is an entirely appropriate memorial. He knew her; the song was a ready part of the funeral; the proceeds are going to charity; and it's all been done very tastefully. Elton has acted with decorum. He and decorum haven't tangled much in the past, but then this is one of life's little ironies. A man who, let's face it, has frequently appeared on stage dressed as a picnic has acted with more emotional etiquette in the past week than the whole music industry combined.

For instance, Chris de Burgh was present at the funeral, so one presumes that he knew the Princess. However, was I the only one who felt a little uneasy when he popped up to be interviewed by David Dimbleby an hour later, to tell us about a song he'd written about her? Was I the only one who felt amazed that in a week in which someone he knew had died, he'd found time to film himself singing said song, and was happy to show the film during the coverage of a state funeral?

Because the Princess's death provoked such a fe-

brile public mood, other pop stars have had to watch their mouths. The Spice Girls stated that they were delaying the release of their next single so that "Elton John could spend as long as possible at No 1". Now, there is no event in the world that will stop Elton John being at No 1 for at least two months. Not to buy the Elton John single will be seen as a political act in some parts of Britain. Oasis may very well be bigger than God, but sales of *Candle in the Wind* are going to make sales of *D'You Know What I Mean?* look like those for the last Yummy Fur twelve-inch.

The Spice Girls' management are canny — they manage the Spice Girls, how much canner do you need to be? — and they

know this. The Spice Girls' single is being held back because, naturally, they want it to go to No 1. So why pretend otherwise? And Kylie Minogue's frankly baffling withdrawal of her *Impossible Princess* album — all copies were recalled, at a cost of tens of thousands of pounds — is also equally bizarre. Does this mean that the use of the word "princess" is now, in some way, emotionally illegal? Surely this would also extend to "Diana" and "Wales" being, in some mad way, banned?

All this overreaction is starting to look like doing something for the sake of being seen to do something. These panicked popstars would do well to read a bit of the Welsh (Oh not I said Welsh! How tactless) philosopher D.Z. Phillips, who suggested that the only profound response to truly horrific events is silence. If only the one-minute silence was being released as a single...



CAITLIN MORAN



"I'd rather people judge me on the basis of who I am rather than an image that's half of who I am," says Mariah Carey from the depths of her self-analysis — and hotel pillow

In bed with my career

Mariah Carey's marital breakdown has led to a highly personal album. Paul Sexton meets a determined diva

Because of her separation in May from her husband of four years, record company chief Tommy Mottola, Mariah Carey's 1997 was always going to be seen first and foremost as the Year of the Split. But that does not mean the biggest-selling female artist of the 1990s has been idle on the work front.

Since a million self-satisfied I-told-you-sos were triggered by the separation, Carey has made another momentous decision, replacing the manager who had accompanied every step of her unstoppable ascent. She has also completed what she considers to be the most personal of her five studio albums, *Butterfly*, which walt-

ed into British record stores yesterday.

Already it is clear that, for all the personal trauma, Carey still has Mides on the payroll: this week, the album's first single, *Honey*, went straight to No 1 in the American charts, taking her ahead of Whitney Houston and Madonna as the female artist with the most chart-topping singles ever. Carey is still on fire, or, as *Billboard* magazine was moved to put it, paraphrasing the Notorious B.I.G., "Mo' Honey, No Problems".

For my audience with

Carey, I was summoned to a room in her London hotel — not her own chambers, it soon became clear, but a boudoir loaned by a member of Team Carey — and was introduced to the chanteuse reclining "neath the sheets in a skimpy two-piece number. I shook the hand of pop royalty, pondering whether the same faux-intimate location would have been chosen had the interviewer been Mrs Merton.

She is attracted to such settings, it seems, by the fatigue induced by an obsessively hands-on approach to her career. *Butterfly* was completed hazily close to deadline, and Carey takes responsibility for that. By her admission, she is not at home to the word "delegation".

"I can't put my record in anybody else's hands because nobody else really cares as much as I do about it," she says. "Other producers are always moving on to the next project. That's why I co-produce everything that I do, because I don't really trust anybody's opinion or devotion to it as much as my own."

Such an attitude can either be seen as laudably realistic or something of a brush-off for the producers who helped her to prepare *Butterfly* for take-off, including longtime side-man Walter Afanasieff and urban music's man of the moment, Sean "Puffy" Combs. Either way, the album is more soulful than any of its platinum-plated predecessors and lyrically, says Carey, it is closer to her true, vulnerable self.

There are some lyrics that are completely personal. I put it on and it calms me. I go to sleep with the album. I've never done that before. The other day I woke up to one of the songs and I almost can't believe I put it out — it's so personal.

"People are going to be so analytical about a lot of it because of what's been going on in my personal life, but even beyond that, it almost feels like I'm letting go of a part of me."

She speaks affectionately of *Close My Eyes*, a reflective piece that, unlike many of her other ballads, does not come choked with cabaret sentimentality. In the song she describes herself as a woman-child who "was on the verge of fading/Thankfully I woke up in time".

"That's not a reference to my marriage," she says swiftly. "I've had to be a grown-up since I was six years old. My mother worked two jobs, my brother was supposed to stay home and watch me and he was out doing his thing."

Her Venezuelan father and Irish-American mother divorced when Carey was a toddler. "I don't feel it's really appropriate to go into the dark craziness that went on in parts of my life," she says now. "Thank God I had, and have, a mother who encouraged and inspired me, and is one of the main reasons I'm here today."

"In the song I guess I was

studies, and the first draft of a movie has just arrived. But whether on the silver screen or through freshly introspective lyrics, she is determined to become known as herself.

"When you're in the middle of a huge corporate machine people can tend to be very cautious if you allow them to be. It's not that anybody had

anything but my best interests at heart, but it's not as fulfilling to be someone that people don't know."

"People are going to judge you regardless, so I'd rather people judge me on the basis of who I am rather than an image that's half of who I am."

● *Butterfly* is released by Columbia

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POSTS

LANCING

Appointment for September 1998

HEAD

on the retirement of Mr Christopher Saunders M.A.

Academic ability and business acumen, combined with skilful and imaginative leadership required to build on the excellent work of the outgoing Head.

Lancing, the senior school of the Woodard Corporation, is an independent boarding and day school for boys aged 13 - 18 and Sixth Form Girls.

Full details from: Mr I R McNeil, Lancing College, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 0RW. Telephone: 01273 452213.

Applications with c.v. and names of three referees by Wednesday, 15 October 1997 please.

LANCING COLLEGE, SUSSEX

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

£80,357 - £71,087 plus performance related pay & benefits

Wandsworth enjoys an international reputation for quality and innovation in local government. Since launching its education service in 1990, the Council has continued to break new ground in its drive to realise the pattern of education in the borough with many local initiatives, forecasting current national developments. It remains committed to raising educational standards and improving choice by working closely and effectively with parents, schools, the Department for Education and Employment and national agencies.

Following the appointment of the current postholder as the Director of Education in a new unitary Authority, we now seek his successor as deputy who will also be responsible for managing one of the divisions within the department.

You should have:

- A successful record of innovative management in Education
- Proven ability to contribute to corporate goals and work within corporate management and performance standards
- Ability to communicate effectively with a large and varied population of key individuals and diverse interest groups.

If you wish to discuss this post, please contact Paul Robinson on 0181-871 7890.

An information pack and application form are available from the Head of Contracts & Personnel, Education Department, Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 2PU. Tel: 0181 871 7874.

Closing date: 6 October 1997.

Interviews will take place in October.

Visually impaired applicants requiring job information on tape or in Braille please contact Caroline Dunsby on 0181 871 6963. Hearing impaired applicants please call our helpline on 0181 871 6886.

Wandsworth

Wandsworth is an equal opportunities employer, all applicants are considered on the basis of their merits and abilities for the job.

Kolej Matrikulasi Yayasan Saad (KMYS) Malaysia

2 year contracts with prospects of renewal

This newly founded Matriculation (Sixth Form) College opens its doors on 1 April 1998. It is fully residential, co-educational and based on the British independent schools system. It will teach a variety of Arts and Science subjects to GCE A-Level, using UK based Examination Boards, and aims to be a centre of academic excellence sending its students on to leading universities worldwide.

Set in a beautiful 50 acre site with excellent facilities for teaching, sports and recreation, it is located 60km north of Kuala Lumpur along the North-South Expressway. The College is funded by the Yayasan Saad (Saad Foundation) which has already established a successful school for students aged 11-16.

If you are over 25 and have at least 5 years' teaching experience at this level, this is an excellent opportunity to join this new College at the outset. There is a very competitive remuneration package, including relocation expenses, free accommodation on campus, overseas allowance, annual home-leave passage paid, and much more.

The subjects for which teachers are required are:

Mathematics
Further Mathematics
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Physics
Biology

Economics
Geography
History
English Language
(for preparation for IELTS examination)

All subjects are taught in English

Further particulars are available from the Headmaster's Secretary, Winchester College, College Street, Winchester SO23 9NA. (Tel: 01962 621100 Fax: 01962 621106). Please mark the envelope KMYS/TT. Closing date for applications: 30 September.

DULWICH COLLEGE ALLEYN'S SCHOOL

CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS

Applications are invited for the post of Clerk to the Governors which will become vacant in the summer of 1998 on the retirement of Mr R.A. Alexander.

Further details are available from: The Clerk's Secretary, 87 College Road, Dulwich, London SE21 7HH. (Please quote T171 when replying)

The closing date for applications is Friday, 10th October, 1997.

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Girls' Public Day School Trust CROYDON HIGH SCHOOL

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For full particulars and an application form write to:

The Secretary
The Girls' Public Day School Trust
100 Rochester Row, London SW1P 1JP
Closing date for applications
Friday, 26th September 1997



RUHR-UNIVERSITÄT BOCHUM

Seminar für Orientalistik und Indologie

The Department for Oriental and Indian Studies, Ruhr University, Bochum, Federal Republic of Germany, offers the following vacancy to be filled early in 1998:

Head of the Junior Research Group

"Networks of Islamic Scholarship and Education in Local and Transnational Contexts (18th-20th Centuries)"

Funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, the group will focus on the utilization of social network models for the description and analysis of transformation processes in Muslim societies. It comprises four sub-projects of comparative research in Islamic education and scholarly culture in selected areas of the Islamic world.

By its programme "Junior Research Groups at Universities" the Volkswagen Foundation wants to provide young and excellent scholars and scientists with the opportunity to organize their own independent research team. The post of the Head of the Research Group (BAT 1a) is to be filled for five years. His/her field of duties includes research in one sub-project, coordination and planning of the Group's activities, and lecturing at the Department (at least 2 hours per week).

Application is open to young scholars of Islamic studies or of Oriental Studies, Ottoman, Turkish or Iranian Studies with an Islamological orientation (age to 35 years, Ph.D.). Applicants are required to have research experience in Islam in Russia/Central Asia (relevant publications desirable) and a thorough knowledge of Arabic, Turkish, Persian, and Russian as well as German and English.

The Ruhr-Universität seeks to promote women in research and instruction.

Applications from handicapped persons are welcomed.

Applications including the usual credentials and a sketch of the applicant's research interests are to be sent until November 30th, to: Prof. Dr. Stefan Reichmuth, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Seminar für Orientalistik und Indologie, GB 2, Universitätsstrasse 150, D-44780 Bochum.

Full details and form of application may be obtained from the Headmaster's Secretary, Christ College, Brecon, Powys LD3 8AG (Tel: 01874 623339 Fax: 01874 611478). The closing date for applications is 4th October 1997.

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HEAD for September 1998

This vacancy arises through the retirement of James Flecker after 18 years in the post. His successor must demonstrate high academic ability together with strong leadership and management skills. He or she will have the vision and capacity to ensure that the College continues to flourish and develop. Ardingly is a Woodard School and applicants must be communicants of the Church of England.

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Further details from:

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EDUCATION

Will fees fill the funding gap?

Paying for tuition may be no guarantee that universities will gain more resources, argues John O'Leary

Universities breathed a collective sigh of relief when the Government agreed to introduce tuition fees in 1998. But when their vice-chancellors met in Strathclyde next week, they will be as anxious as ever about what ministers term a funding "crisis" in higher education.

Anyone who believed that fees represented an instant solution to the serious financial problems identified by Sir Ron Dearing in July was swiftly disabused this week at a London conference organised by the vice-chancellors. A common fear was that universities would be lucky to see much money from fees this side of the millennium — if ever.

Faced with a funding gap of at least £200 million by 1998/99, vice-chancellors have sought in vain for a signal from ministers that students would derive some benefit from their future sacrifices. Kim Howells, the Minister for Lifelong Learning, passed up an opportunity to reassure them on Tuesday, and the message is certain to be the same next week.

Diana Warwick, chief executive of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, had already put down a clear marker for Dr Howells, claiming a "strong consensus" among MPs as well as students and employers, that support for fees was conditional on a net gain for universities. "Tuition fees must result in a better-resourced higher sector. It won't have been worth it otherwise."

Dr Howells again acknowledged that universities faced a short-term crisis, but said he could not prejudice the Treasury's spending review. While accepting that universities needed the earliest possible indication of how much money they could expect, he gave no hint of a satisfactory resolution in November's Budget.

David Blunkin, the Education and Employment Secretary, has guaranteed that universities and colleges will benefit when savings start to flow from the abolition of grants and the introduction of fees. But the Government's commitments and the Treasury's accounting rules make it far from certain when that will be.

The Chancellor's pledge to keep to the Conservatives' spending plans means that extra money will be available officially only in the next century. Unless there is a change of practice by the Treasury, all the additional loans made in place of grants will count as public expenditure, with no allowance made for future repayments.

The problem was foreseen by Sir Ron, who said in his report that the practice was "at variance with the facts" and recommended it be changed to make a realistic allowance for repayment. Nick Barr, an expert in the field at the London School of Economics, says the Treasury rules are unusually strict, internationally, and could be changed within the requirements of the Maastricht treaty.

However it is calculated, much of the projected saving is likely to go into setting up the machinery needed for the new system. That could still leave a potentially disastrous funding gap for many universities over the next two years.

Sir Ron was acutely aware of this, too.



Some vice-chancellors believe that universities will be lucky to see much money from student fees

He emphasised in his foreword the universities' "pressing needs" for more funding in 1998 and 1999, putting their shortfall as high as £900 million by the end of the century.

Bahram Bekhradnia, director of policy at the Higher Education Funding Council for England, was only slightly more sanguine about the sector's short-term prospects at Tuesday's conference. He put the immediate funding gap at £200 million and, referring to Dr Howells's use of the word "crisis", added: "I have never heard a Government describe the funding situation in a public service in those terms."

Mr Bekhradnia said that, after a 40 per cent cut in funding per student over 20 years, the funding council acknowledged that the scope for further efficiency savings was limited. Anything more than a 1 per cent budget reduction would imply a cut in services even for the current number of students, and a rising 18-year-old population suggested the imminent

resumption of expansion recommended by Sir Ron.

The official attitude of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals is that the extra money will be forthcoming in the end. Since fees are already potentially unpopular, the Chancellor may not want to take further risks with public opinion, and leading university figures have decided that there is nothing to be gained by rocking the boat before the Budget.

But, beneath this bland exterior, frantic talks are still taking place. Next week's meeting will see the threat of top-up fees back on the CVCP's agenda, although the leadership will try to keep this ultimate weapon in reserve.

Today's edition of *The Times Educational Supplement* quotes a briefing paper for the conference that says: "It is important to keep the threat of top-up fees on the table, given the lack of assurances that additional funding for higher education will be provided in the short term." The committee refuses to comment on

confidential papers, but acknowledges that any university has the right to vary its own fees.

The problem for those contemplating such a course is that the Government can also vary the amount of grant it allocates. There have been heavy hints in the past that any university levying its own fees on top of the Government's would be penalised so that it gained no advantage.

Planning for the worst while hoping for the best, vice-chancellors have been drawing up plans for further economies if the private assurances that they have received turn out to be empty. Even at Cambridge University, for example, a strategic plan for 1997-2001 envisages the loss of about 60 academic jobs if there is no increase in funding.

Cambridge is an obvious candidate for top-up fees, although the university has always seen them as a last resort. Others at the Strathclyde meeting may consider that they will have no alternative if the Budget fails to live up to expectations.

Schools can, and do, make a difference

Michael Barber challenges a report's claims that improvement in standards is random

At the consultation conferences this week on the White Paper *Excellence in Schools*, there is a striking unanimity about the standards agenda the Government has put forward. The publication last week of a report, which openly questions the Government's emphasis on raising literacy and numeracy standards, provided a rare voice of dissent.

The report, from Peter Robinson, a research officer at the Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics (*The Times*, September 5), is welcome because it demands that the Government not only states its policy, but also spells out the rationale on which it is based.

Dr Robinson raises two issues that must be addressed: first, the relative impact of any educational intervention on pupil achievement. Secondly, whether greater attention should be given to the performance of low achievers.

The first argument relies on evidence from two surveys, the 1970 British Cohort survey and the 1958 National Child Development Study. From these, one can analyse factors associated with low achievement in literacy and numeracy. Dr Robinson acknowledges that this leaves him examining the impact of primary schools from 1963 to 1969 and from 1975 to 1981, a significant problem when it comes to determining policies for the late Nineties, but the weaknesses go deeper than that.

The surveys he cites demonstrate the importance of social class as a predictor of pupil performance. Their weakness is that they do nothing to explain why children with identical socio-economic backgrounds do well in some schools and badly in others. Are we to understand that this occurs merely at random, and that nothing the school can do can make a difference?

Surely this is absurd. The fact that Dr Robinson is unable to find a causal link between any school improvement intervention and a change in standards does not mean there isn't one. It may simply be that he has not looked hard enough. After all, research into school effectiveness and into school improvement has shown that there is a school effect. Good schools combine strong leadership and academic focus, teaching quality, high expectations, and discipline among others to raise achievement beyond what might otherwise be predicted. The importance of these factors is reinforced where schools combine them, and work to bring about improvement.

Worse still, Dr Robinson's report manages to bypass three decades of literacy research, which has shown what works for schools in improving pupils' performance; interactive whole-class teaching, better-focused group reading in class, direct teaching of phonics and more sustained listening by parents to children reading at home. Research demonstrates that these approaches work.

Dr Robinson similarly ignores the research on numeracy. We need to ask why these studies get such little billing in a report that claims to be on literacy and numeracy. If he had spent more

time on this evidence, he would surely have developed a new understanding about how to improve standards. It is possible, with strategic thinking, to combine a range of interventions, all of which have a positive impact on standards. The Government's literacy and numeracy strategy, the details of which will be announced shortly, does precisely this. It is not necessary to choose between training teachers to teach better reading, encouraging reading at home and promoting literacy through the media. We can and will do all three over the next five years.

Thinking about education in general needs to make a similar shift. To those who ask "Should we address disadvantage, or improve schools?", we would answer "Why not do both?" The Government will, with its partners in education, drive ahead with its standards agenda. Through the new cross-Whitehall social exclusion unit



Barber: "Report ignores research"

and other initiatives, it will also attack poverty and disadvantage.

To those who ask, as Dr Robinson does: "Should our focus be on average performance or the performance of the 'long tail' of underachievers?", we would answer "both". The literacy strategy will deliver training and support for all schools and intensive training and support for those that need it most. At a time when it is critical to reassess the contribution of good teachers, head teachers and schools, Dr Robinson's analysis threatens to deny that they make a contribution at all. The analysis harks back to the social determinism of the Sixties, when we were told that schools did not make a difference. Nothing, surely, can do more damage to morale than being told that, however hard you work, it makes no difference. In effect, this is Dr Robinson's message.

The Government's view is the opposite. Teachers have awesome responsibility. They shape the next generation. From Government will come a combination of pressure to succeed and support to make success possible. It can be done.

Professor Michael Barber is head of the Standards and Effectiveness Unit at the Department for Education and Employment

How to soften the shock of the new

With a new school come fresh anxieties. Whether they stem from finding classrooms or making friends, switching schools brings a satchel full of worries.

But the problems can be overcome. Weeks before the start of term, Elizabeth Piper went with her 11-year-old daughter to look around Claire's new school. "Claire was worried she wouldn't know which entrance to use," Mrs Piper says.

On passing her 11-plus, Claire took the bus by herself for the first time to a "taste day" at the grammar school for girls. The next day the Pipers met her new teachers. Claire's school career has been chequered, so her parents have done all they can to smooth the path. Before her state primary Claire was at a private school near by. Then her family, from Hildenborough, was hit by the recession. "Removing her was a big step," her mother says. "Now we feel we've got to where we wanted to be, without the cost. Claire didn't seem to notice, and still sees friends from her old school."

The switch from a private to a state school was harder for their eldest son, Mark, 13. He had been educated privately for three years when the move came soon after his seventh birthday. "His new classmates made fun of the way he spoke," his father says. "He felt an odd one out, but we ignored it. He'd gone over the top, we'd done something."

In such cases, when prob-

Changing schools need not cause trauma, says Morag Preston

lems become too serious for parents to cope with, LEA schools offer the services of a visiting welfare officer.

Ruth Molyneux, 16, surprised her parents, who live near Tonbridge, by announcing that she wanted to



All change: Ruth Molyneux

change schools for A levels. Having applied for various prospectuses, Ruth set her sights on the local boys' grammar, which takes girls in the sixth form.

Her mother, Penny, says: "It was entirely her decision and we supported her. The practical side is that the school is nearer our home, and its name will look good on her CV."

Six other girls from Ruth's former school — though not her closest friends — also

applied to switch. Her younger brother, Tom, is already at her new school, and Ruth had been with her mother to see a sixth-form play there. After an interview Ruth was offered a place, conditional on five GCSEs at Grade A. Had she not come up trumps, she would have had to stay put.

"Ruth's last day at the school was very emotional for her," Mrs Molyneux says. "She didn't know whether she would be going back there. But she wanted to broaden her horizons."

Sarah Knowles, 7, has enough new pencil cases to take her through to university. They were an effective incentive for her first day at primary school. Her mother, Catherine, says: "She got ready incredibly quickly, and was waiting at the door half an hour before we were due to leave."

Sarah's new school is a hop and a skip from her previous playground, but she still had concerns. Her father, David, from Chatham, says: "Homework had been mentioned and Sarah had been working on her spelling during the holidays, but I think she was looking forward to it. Staying with the same circle of friends has been the key."

About 80 per cent of Sarah's classmates from her first school have made the move with her. They spent an introductory morning at the school before the holidays, and their parents were given a tour that afternoon. "She knew what to expect," says her father.

Primaries thrive on technology link

Two years ago, Sue Parsons, head of the 66-pupil Llanfihangel Rhydithon Primary School in Powys, acknowledged that small rural schools lack the expertise and resources to teach technology effectively.

At first she thought of employing a part-time specialist to introduce the subject at key stage 2. Then she had another idea. She turned to Brian Heard, head of the local secondary school ten miles away at Llandrindod Wells, for help.

"I offered to buy in expertise from the high school," she says. "I thought we could help each other."

From that small beginning, Llandrindod Wells High School now helps its ten feeder primaries to deliver the national curriculum's technology requirements. For a fee of £24 an hour, Graham Haslock and Eddie Jones, Llandrindod's technology teachers, introduce the intricacies of computing, design and model-making.

Pupils are either bussed in to the school, where they spend two hours a week at the £250,000 technology centre, or, as in the case of Llanfihangel, Mr Jones travels to the primary school.

"Their technology programme, which currently focuses on making wind chimes and water wheels, fits into our term topic of water," Mrs Parsons says. "We are also having a community hall built and the pupils have been using the computer to make architectural plans of the building."

Another feeder primary, Nantmel School, is equally

Iola Smith on the high school that came to the rescue

enthusiastic about the technology link. "It is a tremendous asset," says Ais Hobbs, teacher of junior age children at the small 32-pupil primary school. "Our pupils use Llandrindod's equipment and they are designing model bridges and buggies, using

'Children appreciate exploring projects that they otherwise could not do'

computer-aided design and modelling kits. The work has certainly stretched them."

Without Llandrindod's assistance, Nantmel would not be able to offer such a broad design curriculum. The school has only 15 children in years 4, 5 and 6 combined. It would therefore have been impossible to obtain the requisite equipment unaided.

Some of the other participating primaries have chosen to design towers and new bedrooms. "Each design has to fit into a budget," Mr Haslock says. "The pupils

learn about spreadsheets and maths as well as computer-aided design. If any venture goes over budget, the children have to choose what they leave out."

Pupils are also interested in automation. They learn how to control the opening and shutting of doors and the operation of traffic lights. "What the children appreciate about these sessions is that they have the chance to explore projects that they otherwise could not do," Mr Haslock says.

The curriculum is not the only beneficiary, however. The primary/secondary link makes the transition at 11 to the big school much less traumatic for the youngsters. Settling in at a comprehensive can be daunting for children familiar with the cosy comfort of a small village school. But the Powys children have visited the high school and got to know some of the staff and their working methods.

The high school, in turn, has become familiar with its future intake and is aware of the standards that individual pupils can achieve.

This month Llandrindod's technology centre is being opened up to the local community and a visitor centre is promoting scientific and technological awareness.

Small businesses and the public are being introduced to Llandrindod's environmental monitoring programme, which focuses on wind power, solar energy and the application of biotechnology. A technician mans the centre, paid for by the fees generated from teaching technology in the primary schools.

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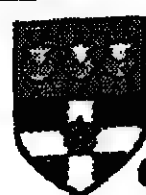
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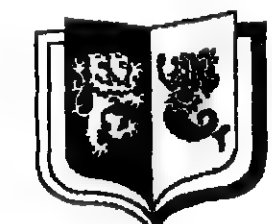
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Mr. K.D. Shaw, MBE, MSc, FCIS,
Bursar and Clerk to the Governors,
Loughborough Endowed Schools,
3 Burton Walks,
Loughborough,
Leicestershire, LE11 2DU.

(Telephone: 01509 267307 Fax: 01509 210486)

Those wishing to apply for the appointment should write a short letter, enclosing a curriculum vitae and full details of 3 referees, to arrive by Friday 3rd October, 1997 at the latest. Applications should be marked "Private and Confidential". The Governors hope to make an appointment by 30th November, 1997.

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CRICKET: WEATHER AND IN-FORM AUSTRALIAN BATSMAN ARE HOME SIDE'S MAIN WORRIES

Law standing in Glamorgan's way

By SIMON WILDER

CARDIFF (second day of four): Essex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 133 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Glamorgan

IT SEEMS that only two things can stop Glamorgan taking maximum points against Essex and carrying this thrilling Britannia Assurance county championship race into a pulsating final round next week. One is the weather, which accounted for the loss of 27 overs from the final session and is expected to be unfavourable today; the other is Stuart Law, who batted so majestically that he might have thought that he was still playing in the NatWest Trophy final.

Unfortunately, his colleagues did not. They returned to the inadequate levels of performance they have shown too often in the past two months and there was never much doubt that they would be made to follow on. There ought to have been, as the pitch is lifeless and offering turn but slowly.

In reply to Glamorgan's 361, Essex were all out for 169. Law's 85 from 63 balls constituting more than half the final total and two-thirds of the runs scored while he was at the wicket - and were batting again by tea. They immediately lost Robinson in Watkin's first over, but Law was not required to come to the rescue immediately as Prichard, who has a habit of scoring runs second time around, and Hussain held firm in fading light.

With the weather forecast uncertain, Maynard, the Glamorgan captain, cannot have hesitated about asking Essex to bat again, but he will be conscious of what happened at the Oval last week. Surrey, 234 behind on first innings, batted again, amassed nearly 300 and got away with a draw. One difference here is that his bowlers remain relatively fresh, having dismissed Essex in less than three hours.

Breathtakingly though Law played - he was reminiscent of Viv Richards, so strong was his driving through the on side and so determined was he to dominate - his recklessness may have contributed to the indiscipline of his less talented partner. There was an inexplicable freneticism about

the whole innings, the run-rate staying at over five an over for most of the time.

Essex were batting 75 minutes into the day, though not before the Glamorgan tail had resourcefully captured the one outstanding bonus point on offer. This was achieved by forthright hitting from Waqar Younis and Darren Thomas, who was capped in the tea interval, before both fell during a lively spell from Danny Law. He finished with his best championship figures of the season, four for 69.

Waqar was soon in action again, bowling at a slippery pace despite the unpromising conditions. In his second over, Prichard fractionally misjudged a clip off his legs and was held low by James at point. Two balls later, Hussain was squared up and smartly held by Cottee low down to his left at first slip.

Glamorgan were on a roll and it was no surprise that Stuart Law tried to regain the initiative, but Glamorgan were plainly taken aback at his aggression and his lack of concern at the risky nature of many of his early strokes.

Time and again, he drove within feet of mid-on, but he was making few errors by lunch, at which point he had scored 34 from 26 balls. From the first over afterwards, bowled by Watkin, he took 13; from the next, from his old friend Thomas, he took eight, to bring up his half-century from 35 balls out of 60 runs added.

In Watkin's next over, though, Robinson essayed a drive of his own and was caught by Shaw in front of slip. In Thomas's next over, Irani and Grayson were leg-before to successive deliveries. Danny Law briefly matched his namesake before Watkin removed him with a leg-cutter and Glamorgan could relax, confident that they would be able to enforce the follow-on, even without dismissing Essex's most dangerous player.

In fact, Law, the situation now desperate, soon holed out to deep mid-on, seeking a fifteen-run boundary, after which the tail offered brief resistance before a foolish run-out from a misfield led to the final collapse. Essex will expect something from Prichard and Hussain today, but Law is their realistic hope.



Cowan is bowled by Waqar for a duck as Essex collapse to 169 all out and are forced to follow on

Shah enjoys moment to remember

By JACK BAILEY

LORD'S (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 314 runs behind Middlesex

MIDDLESEX have pinned their hopes on a sizeable first-innings score, followed by the wiles of Phil Tufnell and, so far, they have not been disappointed. No attempt was made to force the pace yesterday as they took 54 overs to translate their overnight 283 for five wickets into 430 for eight. This was primarily because the chief mover was Owais Shah, who was in search of a maiden century and was understandably careful along the road to glory.

Shah's objective was achieved after a vigil of nearly five hours. It was a highly promising innings. The 18-year-old was still there when Ramprakash declared and, apart from the odd burst of cramp, looked as though he could have lasted all day. Then came Tufnell. The Nottinghamshire batsman, apart from Robinson and Downman, who put on 67 for the first wicket, were no match for his variations in the autumnal gloom.

A spell of three wickets for nine runs in 24 balls from him and the removal by Jacques Kallis of Paul Johnson sent Nottinghamshire sliding to 91 for four. By then, the light had become so borderline that Ramprakash was bowling in

harness with Tufnell and even his medium pace had Tolley and Afzal hanging on by a slender thread.

Nottinghamshire's armoury does not exactly bristle, but there were a number of good, honest yeomen going about their business yesterday and they did not wait as the Middlesex score continued to mount. Inroads were made as Brown, top-edged a pull and Hewitt was caught at mid-wicket off the underused Afzal, who also had Fraser stumped after a brisk 27 from 20 balls. Still Shah had not reached three figures.

It was left to Tufnell's straight bat to prop and cop as Shah moved from 91 to his century. An hour had seen him score 15 singles before a

push for three took him to 99 and then the moment of a lifetime. By then, he had hit 13 fours and a six and had impressed mightily with his driving off front foot and back.

So surely did Robinson and Downman deal with the Middlesex quick bowlers that there was no hint of the trials to come. Both batted with assurance, although Fraser, warmly received by the crowd after his selection for the West Indies tour, flamed with Downman's outside edge several times. Downman was the first to go, pinned on the back foot by Tufnell, and the slide was on.

Robinson edged, pushing forward, and when Johnson survived only six balls before edging to second slip, Nottinghamshire were up against it.

Lancashire promote Simmons to top table

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

THE OVAL (second day of four): Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 338 runs behind Lancashire

LANCASHIRE have elected Jack Simmons, the club's former all-rounder, as their new chairman. The appointment is well made because Simmons is a man around whom a troubled club can regroup. He succeeds Bob Bennett, who is standing down to concentrate on his duties as chairman of the England committee.

It was entirely in keeping with his reputation as the game's greatest trencherman that, after expressing the hope that "we can all work together", Simmons mentioned the caters before the ground staff. Perhaps the club should lay on a welcoming feast and serve the "Simmo Special" - steak pudding, fish, chips and mushy peas, topped off with a curry sauce.

He has, so to speak, a lot on his plate. Lancashire have yet to name John Bower's successor as chief executive, although Jim Cumbe, the commercial manager, is expected to be offered the post. They have also to settle the captaincy issue and to confirm that Wasim Akram will remain their overseas player.

Jason Gallian is finalising his move to Middlesex and he may not be the only player to leave Old Trafford, such is the general uncertainty. Simmons may consider it prudent to call an end-of-term meeting and knock a few heads together.

There is much to put right before Lancashire can take their place at county cricket's top table, but they have enjoyed much the better of this match. After Surrey scored their first hundred runs at five an over, Watkinson and Keedy found easy pickings against some irresolute batting.

Lancashire declared on 592 for four after Fairbrother completed the third unremarkable century of the innings. He is one of 14 men in this match to have played for England at a senior level and the cricket has still been execrable.

Derbyshire suffer on another grey day

By RICHARD HOBSON

WORCESTER (second day of four): Worcestershire have a first-innings lead of 331 runs over Derbyshire

CRICKET lover though he is, John Major will not have completely enjoyed his day as a spectator at New Road. He was defeated in a one-sided contest himself earlier in the season and, as a neutral on this occasion, his heart surely went out to Derbyshire.

For the visitors to emerge from this game without defeat requires either an immeasurably improved performance by the top order or a tornado to hit Worcester. It is debatable which is more likely. The early collapse yesterday was entirely predictable, the prospects of avoiding the follow-on target of 405 always remote.

Worcester extended their overnight total to 554 for eight before declaring ten minutes after lunch. Weston had moved to within 12 runs of his second double-century of the season when he edged Cassar to Krikken, before Leatherdale, on 93, was bowled in the next over attempting to drive Malcolm.

Through the innings, the occasional ball turned and spat, but Derbyshire were deep in the mire long before Moody turned to his slow bowlers. Cork, a curious choice as opener, pushed ineffectually at Sherriff to give Weston a catch at fourth slip and Stubbins, on his debut, fended at Haynes in the next over.

When Barnett offered a second shot to Rhodes trying to deflect Sherriff, Derbyshire were in peril at 12 for three. Clarke dove to cover and Tweats ran himself out after deciding belatedly against an impossible single.

Cassar, born in Sydney and English-qualified, appeared uneasy against the spinners, but his tenacity helped him through a difficult period to add 71 for the sixth wicket with Krikken. Would that some of his colleagues had shown equal application.

DeFreitas became Hick's first championship wicket of the season, but Cassar remained unbeaten on 76, two short of his career best.

YESTERDAY'S BRITANNIA ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARDS

Durham v Somerset (second day of four): Durham, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 145 runs ahead of Somerset

DURHAM: First innings 200 (118 overs, 78 runs)

SOMERSET: First innings 55 (30 overs, 17 runs)

Second Innings

DURHAM: 1st innings 150 (80 overs, 50 runs)

SOMERSET: 1st innings 100 (60 overs, 30 runs)

Glamorgan v Essex (second day of four): Essex, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 133 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN: First innings 361 (100 overs, 100 runs)

ESSEX: First innings 169 (50 overs, 50 runs)

Second Innings

GLAMORGAN: 1st innings 100 (60 overs, 30 runs)

ESSEX: 1st innings 50 (30 overs, 17 runs)

Nottinghamshire v Middlesex (second day of four): Nottinghamshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 314 runs behind Middlesex

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First innings 91 (30 overs, 30 runs)

MIDDLESEX: First innings 430 (80 overs, 100 runs)

Second Innings

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: 1st innings 50 (30 overs, 17 runs)

MIDDLESEX: 1st innings 100 (60 overs, 30 runs)

Lancashire v Surrey (second day of four): Lancashire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 338 runs behind Surrey

LANCASHIRE: First innings 592 (100 overs, 100 runs)

SURREY: First innings 254 (50 overs, 50 runs)

Second Innings

LANCASHIRE: 1st innings 100 (60 overs, 30 runs)

SURREY: 1st innings 50 (30 overs, 17 runs)

Derbyshire v Worcestershire (second day of four): Derbyshire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 331 runs behind Worcestershire

DERBYSHIRE: First innings 223 (50 overs, 50 runs)

WORCESTERSHIRE: First innings 554 (100 overs, 100 runs)

Second Innings

DERBYSHIRE: 1st innings 50 (30 overs, 17 runs)

WORCESTERSHIRE: 1st innings 100 (60 overs, 30 runs)

Yorkshire v Kent (second day of four): Yorkshire, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 145 runs ahead of Kent

YORKSHIRE: First innings 200 (100 overs, 100 runs)

KENT: First innings 55 (30 overs, 17 runs)

Second Innings

YORKSHIRE: 1st innings 100 (60 overs, 30 runs)

KENT: 1st innings 50 (30 overs, 17 runs)

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CRICKET

Head injury to Russell adds to woe

By IVO TENNANT

EDGBASTON (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 119 runs behind Warwickshire

TWICE this season, Gloucestershire have led the Britannic Assurance county championship. It was simply not possible to glean that from their cricket yesterday, for they were battered with a despondency and fecklessness that would have led to a defeat in two days. They resume today with one of their remaining batsmen ill and another suffering from concussion.

For much of the season, Gloucestershire have played wonderfully spirited, cohesive cricket. Here, they disintegrated. As with Leicestershire in the season or two before they won the championship, this side does not quite look the part. Warwickshire's greater experience has been of immeasurable benefit over the first two days.

It was not as if the ball was moving extravagantly or turning sharply. A month or two ago, Gloucestershire would not have collapsed like this. They were without Hewson, who was unable to bat in either innings after seeing a doctor over heart trouble. Then Russell, having made 44 in their second innings in his customary pucky way, had to retire after a short ball from Brown struck him on the back of his helmet.

All this happened after Gloucestershire had taken Warwickshire's last three wickets for 11 runs in the morning. Neil Smith added a further three to his overnight 145 before Lewis gained his sixth wicket of the innings, having him leg-before. Mike Smith then had Brown caught

at second slip and Donald at first slip off successive balls. Gloucestershire's first innings did not begin propitiously. Donald had Windows caught at the wicket in his second over, the ball cutting back and taking the inside edge. Dawson became the first of five batsmen to be held in the slips by Ostler. At least three of those catches, taken low or one-handed, were of a standard that the ancients would have recognised.

Next, Young was taken at the wicket driving at one that Welch swung away from the bat. It was as good a ball as any bowled all day. Ostler held perhaps the pick of his catches to remove Alleyne, again off Welch, and Neil Smith collected four of the remaining five wickets, his best performance of the season.

Made to follow on 305 runs in arrears, Gloucestershire fared little better. Even allowing for their understandable gloom over the defeat at Canterbury last week that put paid to their chances of winning the championship, this was a wretched effort. Their committee would not wish to see first-class county cricket changed from its present form, but they would have had a job convincing Lord MacLaurin of Knebworth, had he been on the ground.

Windows went this time to an away swinger, caught at the wicket off Welch. Hancock, until he was yoked by Giles, again played competently enough, but Dawson and Alleyne went cheaply.

Russell drove his first two balls, from Neil Smith, to the cover boundary. He took his eye off the ball that hit him, but should be fit to bat today. He and Young, who was held one-handed by Ostler off Giles, had added 77 in 18 overs.



Silverwood, the Yorkshire bowler, celebrates having Fulton, of Kent, caught behind at Headingley. Report, page 44

Dakin seizes chance to make his mark

By BARNEY SPENDER

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Leicestershire, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 48 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

THE ill-fortune of one man can often be a blessing for another. Such is the case for Jon Dakin, Leicestershire's powerful all-rounder, who has had to be content with a place in the one-day side all summer while following the county's progress in the championship from the second XI.

His chance finally arrived when Neil Johnson had to return home to South Africa earlier this week with ankle ligament trouble. Dakin, who was himself brought up in Johannesburg, grasped the opportunity with both hands yesterday, recording his third first-class hundred.

Dakin began the season with 103 not out against Cambridge University, but this was only his second championship innings since 1995.

The last one, against Worcestershire on May 8, resulted in a duck. However, he played with a freedom and purpose that suggests he may get a few more chances in the longer game next season.

After Leicestershire had slipped to 120 for four, Dakin shared three important partnerships, adding 63 with Iain Sutherland, 88 with Paul Nixon and, finally, an unbroken 109 with David Millns, who struck a robust 60 not out.

Dakin, occasionally troubled by the promising spin pair of Brown and Davies, took advantage of their lapses in concentration and length as he posted nine fours in his half-century. His next fifty came from 57 balls and, by the close, he had moved on to a career-best 135 not out.

Earlier, James Ormond had wrapped up the Northamptonshire innings with three wickets in 16 balls to claim 36 for 68, his best figures in the championship.

Durham's optimism obscured by cloud

By DEREK HODGSON

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Durham, with three second-innings wickets in hand, lead Somerset by 145 runs

TOMMY FLINTOFF, a respected groundsman who retires next year, was being congratulated yesterday on the settling down of the square at the Riverside Ground. Sixteen wickets then fell in the day and Durham, who might have been expected to push for their third victory of the summer, ended the day facing probable defeat.

Once a flawless sky had given way to cloud, just before noon, things began to happen. Mark Lathwell had looked destined for a big score and David Boon, quick to remind enquirers that he had kept wicket for Australia in two one-day matches, had to sustain Durham's spirits as deputy for the injured Martin Speight. Even he was going flat

when, at 130 for one, Lathwell was deceived by a slower ball. Ten runs later, Marcus Trescothick was similarly confounded, his attempted flick off his legs turning into a leading edge.

When Holloway was dismissed, three wickets had fallen for 16 runs. Durham, tails up, brought back their opening pair, Simon Brown and Mel Betts, and the last nine wickets fell for 71 in 33 overs.

Andrew Caddick and Graham Rose made no impact immediately and, with Kevin Shine resting a back strain, Somerset were falling further behind when, with Durham 66 without loss, the indefatigable Rose took his 500th first-class wicket, that of Stewart Hutton.

Three overs later, Caddick surprised Morris and then Boon before Lewis's 36-over defiance ended when he edged a leg break from Mushaq, leaving the middle to disintegrate. Flintoff's pitch is blameless.

Sussex earn healthy return on Peirce

PAT GIBSON

SOUTHAMPTON (second day of four): Sussex, with seven second-innings wickets in hand, are 70 runs ahead of Hampshire

TOBY PEIRCE may have made the right investment after all. The left-handed opening batsman, who gave up a career in the City to return to the game this season, must have questioned his judgment many times in recent weeks as Sussex stumbled from one defeat to another on their way to the bottom of the county championship.

Yesterday, however, the future looked much brighter. James Kirtley, recovered at last from the back problem which has troubled him all summer, looked as promising a fast bowler as there is in the country as Hampshire lost their last eight wickets for 49 in 20 overs. Then Peirce occupied the crease for more than 4½ hours and 81 runs to give Sussex the prospect of only their second championship win.

Everything is relative, of course, and it has to be said that, on this evidence, Hampshire are in an even worse state than Sussex. They began the day 71 runs ahead with eight wickets in hand but instead of consolidating on a position of strength they simply squandered it.

It was the leg spinner, Amer Khan, almost a veteran in this Sussex side at the age of 27, who began the collapse by bowling Whitaker for 73 and White for 80 before Kirtley, still only 22, tore through the middle order with a spell of three for 17.

Sussex still faced a deficit of 131 but they cleared it during a second-wicket partnership of 79 between Peirce and the experienced Taylor. Taylor had just reached his 50 when he was expertly stumped by Aymes, standing up to the fast medium Renshaw, but Peirce went on to his 81 off 241 balls and, with Newell lending positive support, gave Sussex hope of better things to come.

IN BRIEF

England's amateurs home in on record

ENGLAND are on the brink of a record fifth consecutive amateur home international golf championship after their 10½-4½ win over Scotland at Burnham and Berrow, Somerset, yesterday. A win in their final match, against Ireland, today will bring Peter McEvoy's six-year reign as captain to a successful conclusion.

Philip Rowe, 18, from West Cornwall, and Shaun Philipson, 34, from Prudhoe, were in particularly fine form as England won three of the five foursomes and then stormed to a 7-3 triumph in the singles. Philipson, who was making his debut, scored a hole in one at the 161-yard 5th.

McManus on cue

Snooker: Alan McManus claimed the fourth and final card for the Regal Scottish Masters yesterday by defeating Tony Drago of Malta, 5-2 in the final qualifying round at Spencer's Snooker Centre, Stirling.

Jalabert leads

Cycling: Laurent Jalabert, the world No 1, assumed the overall lead in the Tour de Spain, after winning the sixth stage yesterday. Jalabert initiated the decisive attack and led the breakaway group over the finish line at Granada.

Cruel cut

Rugby league: Warrington Wolves yesterday announced a retained list of only 16 players for next season. The move fuels speculation over the future of Paul Hulme, the former Great Britain forward, and the overseas players, Kelly Shelduff, Salesi Finau, Willie Swann and George Mann, who were not on the list.

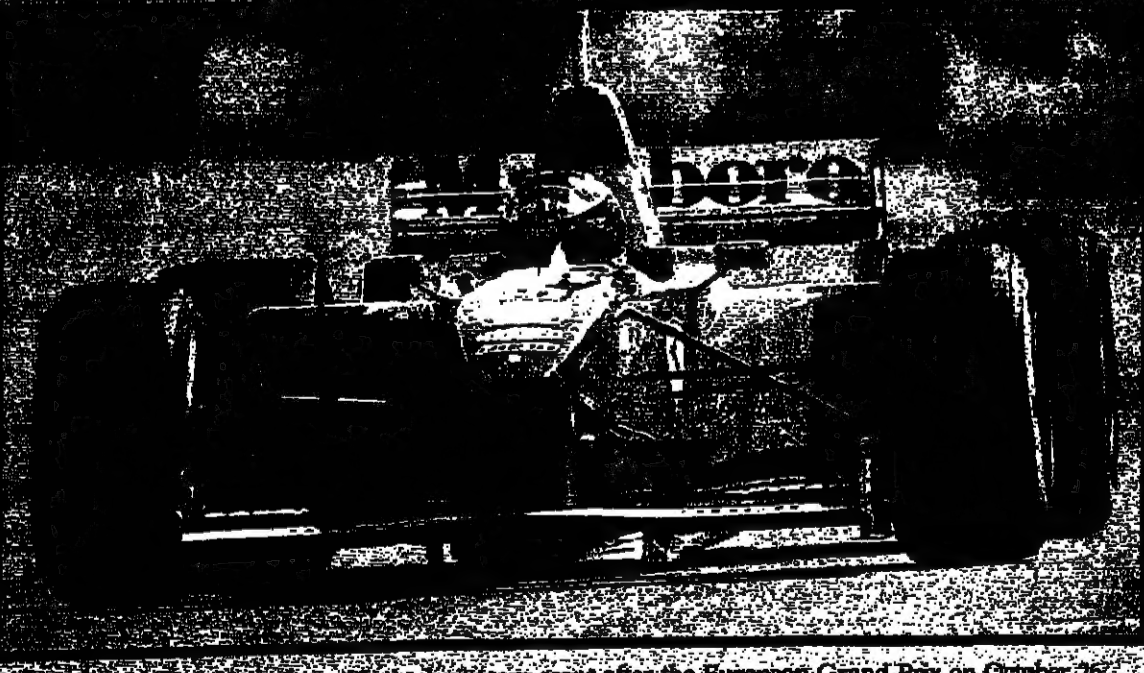
Storm damaged

Ice hockey: Manchester Storm suffered their first defeat in the Benson and Hedges Cup on Wednesday, when the lost 5-3 to Ayr Scottish Eagles.

EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION



Fantasy Formula One race hot up for our £25,000 top prize



Only four races remain in our Fantasy Formula One competition: the Austrian Grand Prix on September 21, the Luxembourg Grand Prix on September 28, the Japanese race on October 12 and the European Grand Prix on October 26. Heading our leaderboard in the race for our £25,000 top prize is A. Bradley of Godalming, Surrey. His team, Slickhead 3, scored 619 points at the Italian Grand Prix to take his cumulative score in the competition to 9,451 points. In second place is L. Ackland from Guildford, Surrey. His team, Aston O, scored 741 points at Monza to take his total points to 9,419 in the competition. Mrs J. Bonnett, of Halstead, Essex, wins a trip for two to next year's British Grand Prix. Her team, Blondie, scored 774 points at Monza.

TO ENTER make three selections from each of the four groups below and call 0891 405 601 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the Luxembourg Grand Prix and the European Grand Prix where bonus points apply.

TRANSFERS Change up to four selections before the Austrian Grand Prix by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday, September 18.

CHECK YOUR SCORE Check your score and position by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ex UK).

CLARIFICATION: Rule 2 applies to the transfers and replacements on the table below. All cumulative figures have been adjusted as a consequence of M. Hakkinen's late disqualification from third position in the Belgian GP. The cumulative figure for Prost published after the Canadian Grand Prix has been adjusted downwards by 10 points as his car did not finish the race.

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED AT MONZA

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole J. Alesi 30 points; 2nd H-H. Frentzen 25; 3rd G. Fisichella 24; 4th J. Villeneuve 23; 5th M. Hakkinen 22; 6th D. Coulthard 21; 7th G. Berger 20; 8th R. Schumacher 19; 9th M. Schumacher 18; 10th E. Irvine 17; 11th R. Barrichello 16; 12th J. Herbert 15; 13th J. Magnussen 14; 14th D. Hill 13; 15th S. Nakano 12; 16th J. Trulli 11; 17th P. Dintz 10; 18th G. Morbidelli 9; 19th M. Salo 8; 20th J. Verstappen 7. **Finishing points** (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st D. Coulthard 60 points; 2nd J. Alesi 50; 3rd H-H. Frentzen 40; 4th G. Fisichella 30; 5th J. Villeneuve 29; 6th M. Schumacher 28; 7th G. Berger 27; 8th E. Irvine 26; 9th M. Hakkinen 25; 10th J. Trulli 24; 11th S. Nakano 23; 12th G. Morbidelli 22; 13th R. Barrichello 21; 14th T. Marques 20. (Only 14 were classified.) **Lap points** (one point for each lap completed): D. Coulthard 53 points; J. Alesi 53; H-H. Frentzen 53; G. Fisichella 53; J. Villeneuve 53; M. Schumacher 53; G. Berger 53; E. Irvine 53; M. Hakkinen 53; J. Trulli 53; S. Nakano 53; R. Barrichello 52; G. Morbidelli 52; T. Marques 50; D. Hill 46; R. Schumacher 39; J. Herbert 38; M. Salo 33; J. Magnussen 31; J. Verstappen 12; U. Katayama 8; P. Dintz 4. Improvement from starting grid to

Finishing position (3 points for each improved place): T. Marques 24 points; J. Trulli 18; G. Morbidelli 18; D. Coulthard 15; S. Nakano 12; M. Schumacher 9; E. Irvine 6. **Fastest lap time of grand prix** M. Hakkinen 10 points. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted): D. Hill -10 points; R. Schumacher -10; J. Herbert -10; M. Salo -10; J. Magnussen -10; J. Verstappen -10; U. Katayama -10; P. Dintz -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

CONSTRUCTORS: Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): McLaren 30 points; Benetton 25; Williams 24; Jordan 23; Ferrari 21; Prost 17; Sauber 15; Stewart 14; Minardi 13. **Penalty points** Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. **Elimination of a car during the race** (10 points deducted): Arrows -20 points; Tyrrell -20; Jordan -10; Sauber -10; Minardi -10; Stewart -10. **Not starting after qualifying** (10 points deducted): none. **Speeding in the pit lane** (5 points deducted): none.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE ITALIAN GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM NAME	MANAGER NAME	POINTS
1	Slickhead 3	A Bradley	9451
2	Aston O	L Ackland	9419
3	Coolsport	D A Coolican	9309
4	The Tigglers	-	9233
4	Cathy's Clowns	Mrs C Robinson	9233
4	Bezzotti Racing	A Scott	9233
4	F1 Erb	S Erhorn	9233
8	Waite Racing F1	P Waite	9218
9	Gwilt F1	D G Gwilt	9194
10	Cartell Racing	S Dimetto	9191
10	No Hoppers	P Zeinalabedini	9191
12	Scuderia Vitulli	Mr Vitulli	9190
13	Dragon Racing	R Davis	9187
13	Will And Nerve	A Mewes	9187
15	Smith-Astra	D R Smith	9181
16	Parkhurst Racing	L Danson	9180
17	Toms Tankers	T Reynolds	9150
18	Freaks	F Retkowsky	9147
18	Formula Uno	P Tabone	9141
20	Rude F1 Engineering	R Dodoo	9137
20	Midnight Rovers	C Newman	9137
20	Cyclops	R Bohes	9137
20	Hastings Hot Rods	P Clifford	9137
20	Goldfinch	S Goldfinch	9137
20	Panchella	D Pembroke	9137

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures, in light type after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Italian GP. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far.

DRIVERS			
GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 D Hill	48 872	13 J Trulli*	108 1414
02 M Schumacher	108 1578	14 J Verstappen	9 737
03 J Villeneuve	106 1312	15 U Katayama	-2 739
04 E Irvine	102 1169	16 P Dintz	4 627
05 J Alesi	133 1436	17 R Rosset	0 0
06 G Berger	100 1132	18 R Schumacher	48 879
07 M Hakkinen	110 1002	19 G Fisichella	107 1223
08 D Coulthard	149 1047	20 S Nakano	100 941
09 R Barrichello	89 823	21 G Morbidelli*	101 1136
10 H-H Frentzen	118 1132	22 T Marques*	94 828
11 J Herbert	43 1080	23 J Magnussen	35 642
12 M Salo	31 1018	24 V Sospiri	0 0
CONSTRUCTORS			
GROUP C		GROUP D	
25 Williams	24 175	31 Arrows	-20 -44
26 Ferrari	21 229	32 Sauber	5 140
27 McLaren	30 114	33 Tyrrell	-20 -14
28 Benetton	25 250	34 Minardi	3 32
29 Jordan	13 124	35 Stewart	4 -110
30 Prost	17 143	36 Lola	0 0
* Jarno Trulli of Minardi replaces Olivier Panis in the Prost team. * Taro Maruyama replaces Trulli at Minardi and at Sauber Gianni			

*Jarno Trulli of Minardi replaces Olivier Panis in the Prost team. Tasso Marques replaces Trulli at Minardi and at Sauber Gianni Morbidelli, who originally replaced Nicola Larini, replaces Fontana.

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TENNIS

Exhausted Rusedski pushed to the limit

By ALIX RAMSAY

THERE is a saying that genius is ten per cent inspiration and 90 per cent perspiration. Yesterday, Greg Rusedski discovered that mere inspiration is not enough to survive as one of the top tennis players in the world depends on rather more perspiration than that, while progress can require near superhuman efforts.

Rusedski made his way into the quarter-finals of the Samsung Open in Bournemouth with a 7-6, 7-6 victory over Richard Fromberg, but there were times when it was tough and he will have to wait a while yet until he achieves his great ambition of breaking into the top ten. That would involve Rusedski reaching the final here — and that could be tricky.

Yesterday, he played considerably better than in the first round, against Alberto Martin, but it was a titanic struggle. Still recovering from the mental and physical exertions of the past couple of weeks, he had to force himself to greater efforts to stand a chance of winning.

Fromberg is not one of the leading lights of the tennis circuit, but he is most at home on a clay court and has a reputation for digging in for a good, long scrap. That was the last thing that Rusedski needed after all he has been through recently.

Everything looked like an effort. The first ace — there were only two — was almost half an hour in coming, the first service was sporadic in the first set and, when he got a hint of a chance on the second set, he could do nothing with it. Yet, as the set headed for a tie-break, there was light at the end of the tunnel: few men have beaten Rusedski in the shoot-out this year.

With the first set under his belt, Rusedski began to look more secure. Although he appeared exhausted between points, he refused to give in and, as the grunts became increasingly desperate, he managed to break Fromberg to take a 2-1 lead in the second set.

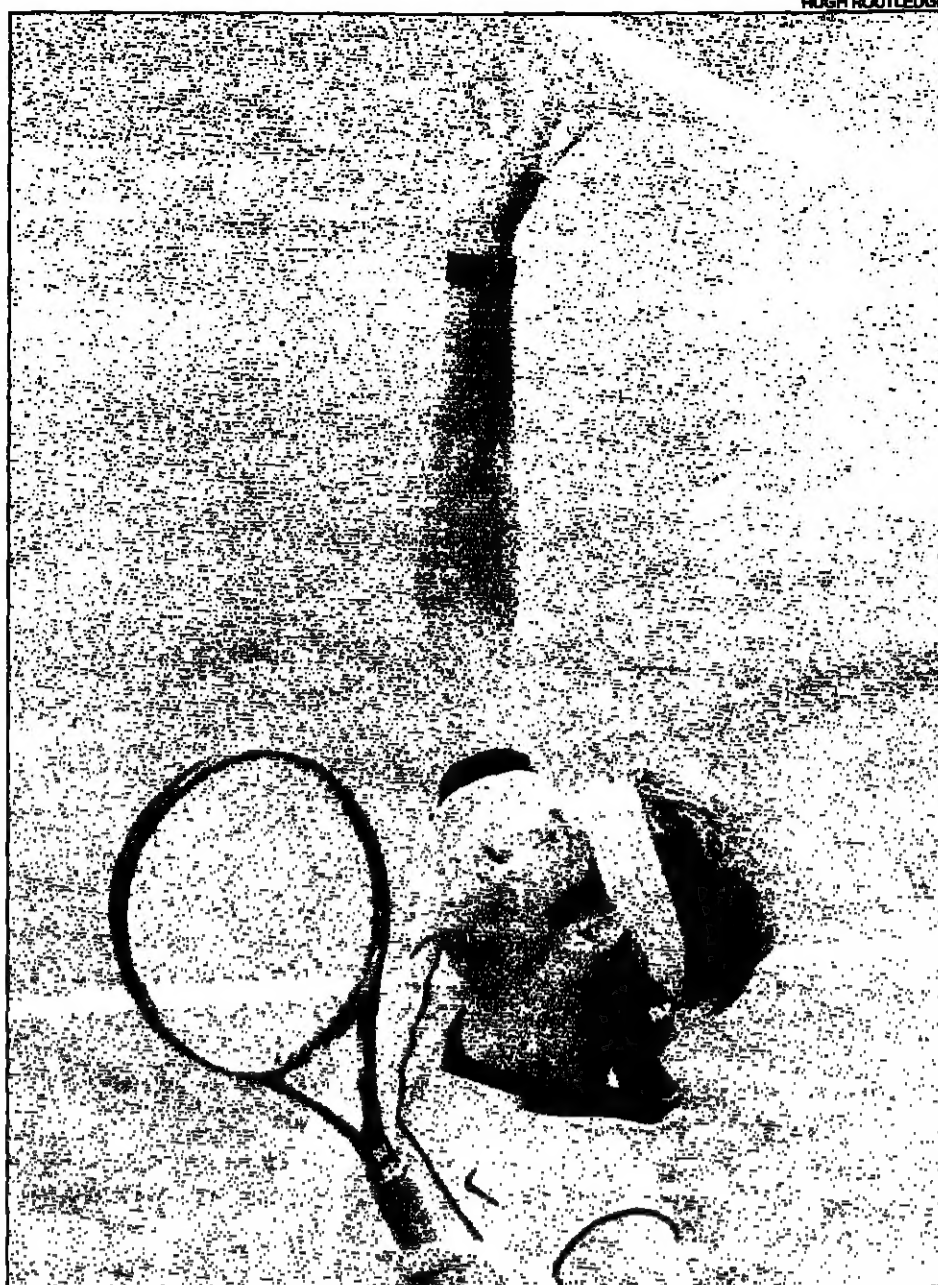
However, as Rusedski served for the match, he was broken. Suddenly, even walking to the umpire's chair looked beyond him. Still, he has learnt a lot in the past few months as he has climbed the rankings ladder. Having run out of steam at Wimbledon in the quarter-finals against Cedric Pioline, he has discovered how to avoid it happening again.

"I'm more tired now than I was against Pioline, but I learnt a lesson from that match," he said. "Mentally, sometimes you can make your body go on and on, even when your body is saying no. It's a case of getting the mind to say 'I can do it' and then just keeping going."

Scores 38

again. There was a gap ahead of him in the spinny that was so small and so near the ground that only he would consider it a viable target. The problem was that he could not play the shot and remain vertical; so he knelt down.

Imagine it. He was on his knees, four-wood in hand. The toe of the club was facing the sky, he could not get more than an inch of clubface on the ball. He took another look,



Rusedski prepares another fiery service on his way to victory over Fromberg yesterday

"I'm physically exhausted and every day I'm trying to push my body to the absolute limit, but I'm trying to compete mentally. After the match, I was shattered. I didn't even know where I was. If it had gone to three sets, I don't know if I could have won."

With so much at stake, Rusedski is determined to go on until he drops to make the breakthrough into the top ten. The complex calculations that govern the ATP Tour rankings

have even the experts foxed at times and after this win, Rusedski thought he had achieved his goal. Now he has discovered that there is more work to do. First on the list is Lucas Arnold, from Argentina, who reached the quarter-finals by beating Johan van Herck, from Belgium, 6-1, 7-5. If he gets through that today, Rusedski will most likely face Carlos Moyá, of Spain, who has hardly been troubled so far this week.

"Today was a big match for me because I want to be in the top ten and it would be nice to do it here in Bournemouth," Rusedski said. "I guess now that to do it I'll have to win the tournament, but I'm looking forward to Monday, when the ranking list comes out and I can just sit back and enjoy it and enjoy the US Open. And enjoy my run at Bournemouth."

Results, page 38

GOLF

Ballesteros cashes in chips

FROM MEL WEBB AT SAINT-NOM-LA-BRETÈCHE

AN ENTIRE book could be written on the number of seemingly impossible strokes that Severiano Ballesteros has played in his time, but the one he pulled out of his box of tricks yesterday was special even by his exalted lights.

Ballesteros was coming to the end of his first round in the Landcote Trophy when he produced The Shot. It is a ploy that there were not more people to witness it, for it was a blow that would have stretched the credulity even of those who are career believers in the mystical charm that Ballesteros sometimes exerts over a golf ball.

The Stroke was called for only because of the mess that he had made of the one that preceded it. Not that that in itself is anything new. He has always been capable of making a Horlicks of routine strokes and uniquely able to bale out of both when a combination of hands, eyes and vision are called for.

This was just such a situation. He came to the tee on the

6th, his 15th. The hole, a short par five, is a right-to-left dogleg and Ballesteros tried to cut off the angle and failed.

He found himself behind a clump of trees on the left and appeared to have no shot beyond a bale-out chip. It would have been the safe exit, the prudent escape, but the words "safe" and "prudent" have no place in this man's lexicon.

He looked, then looked again. There was a gap ahead of him in the spinny that was so small and so near the ground that only he would consider it a viable target.

The problem was that he could not play the shot and remain vertical; so he knelt down. Imagine it. He was on his knees, four-wood in hand. The toe of the club was facing the sky, he could not get more than an inch of clubface on the ball. He took another look,

had a couple of practice swings, swung flat round his body and made contact. The ball scooted through the tiny opening, bent to its master's will and stopped 180 yards away just in front of the green.

People have had commemorative plaques erected for lesser shots. The chip that followed was slightly hampered, but typically, he made the putt for an unlikely birdie. The shot was one of only 65 that Ballesteros played, his best round of a hitherto dismal season and one that left him sharing the lead with Peter O'Malley. "It was my best golf for three or four years," he said. "I had more fun today than I have had for a very long time."

"I was happy, relaxed and confident with my swing. It was like the old days." Yes, but why, after such a miserable year? "Just ... because," he said with a small smile. Just because ... the man is a genius. For once, the word is nothing but the truth. Just a genius.

EQUESTRIANISM

King and Stark give Britain early lead

By JENNY MACARTHEUR

BRITAIN, the defending champions, have taken an early lead in the Burghley Pedigree Chum Open European three-day event championships after impressive performances from the first two team members, Mary King, on Star Appeal, and Ian Stark, on Arnie. King is in third place on 47.2 with Stark, showing a dramatic improvement since Badminton, where he was fifth after the dressage, fourth on 47.8.

Pia Pantus, of Finland, leads the individual event after a beautifully ridden test on Cyra, the Polish-bred mare on which she finished fifth at the 1995 Open European championships in Pratoni. Pantus, 26, who is based with Jan Jonsson, the Sweden team trainer, at Flyinge, was one of the few to produce correct "flying changes" in the canter work and was rewarded with high marks from the three judges.

Andrew Nicholson, an

Olympic team bronze medal-winner in Atlanta, lifted the in-form New Zealand team into second place after his best test to date on Selina Boyce's prolific winner, Dawdle. The nine-year-old gelding is inclined to tense up in the dressage phase, but lengthy working-in yesterday produced a light and relaxed test.

Star Appeal was less relaxed, but King, a skilful dressage rider, has a knack of directing the eyes of the judges away from small mistakes. Admitting that her flying changes are still "far from established", she was delighted with her good score.

The Mark Phillips-trained Olympic silver medal-winner, are fifth after a disappointing test from Bruce Davidson on his 1995 Badminton winner, Eagle Lion, but with David O'Connor, the Badminton winner this year, competing today, they are unlikely to stay out of contention.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL	RUGBY LEAGUE	OTHER SPORT
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated	Stones Premiership	EUROPEAN: European three-day event (at Burghley)
Norwich City v Manchester City (7.45)	St Helens v Salford (7.30)	GOLF: Men's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
First division		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
Bury v Manchester City (7.45)		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
Third division		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
Colchester v Scarborough (7.45)		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
FA HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
Premier division: Bournemouth v Southampton (7.45)		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
UNITE SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hove v Brighton (7.45)		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
FA CUP: First qualifying round: South v Burton, Scunthorpe v Brentford		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
CRICKET		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
Britannia Assurance county championship		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
10.30: Test day of four, 104 overs minimum		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Somerset		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Essex		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Sussex		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
LORDS: Middlesex v Nottinghamshire		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)
		WOMEN'S: Women's home internationals (at Bournemouth and Bournemouth)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

BEYIS (b) Henry VI, Part II. A follower of Cade on the grounds that "virtue is not regarded in handicrafts-men". Unlike his more bloodthirsty colleagues he is quiet and honest.

LYSANDER (a) A Midsummer Night's Dream. A young man in love with Hermia. In contrast with the hot-headed Demetrius, he is unsullied and serious, but no less fervent for all that.

PINCH (b) The Comedy of Errors. A charlatan brought by Adriana to drive out the spirits supposedly driving Antipholus II mad. He has only a dozen lines, but they are in ornate quack's jargon.

BASSETT (c) Henry VI, part I. A follower of Somerset and member of the red-robe faction.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Ne2! 2 Qc2 (forced, to defend the rook on d1, if 2 Rd8 Nac3 3 Rd8+ Kg7 and Black wins on material) 2 ... Rd1+ 3 Qxd1 Nc3 and Black emerges a piece ahead.

THE WEATHER CHANNEL

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE WEATHER FORECAST. MORNINGS ON SKY. 24 HOURS ON CABLE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS WEEKEND?

ARE YOU SURE?

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ARE YOU SURE?

THE WEATHER CHANNEL

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE WEATHER FORECAST. MORNINGS ON SKY. 24 HOURS ON CABLE.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Now a double memorial

BBC Proms 97

BBC2, 7.30pm

The penultimate night of the Proms comes live from the Albert Hall and features Verdi's Requiem, a choral blockbuster, which was among the favourite works of the late Diana, Princess of Wales. Sir Georg Solti, who was to have conducted the work, long associated with him, had discussed making this a memorial to the Princess, who was taking part in the London Symphony Chorus, who are taking part. Sir Georg's sudden death, last Friday, means that tonight is now a memorial to both. Sir Colin Davis conducts. Settings of the Mass have been a theme of the 1997 Proms and Verdi's work, first given in 1874, is one of the most powerful examples in the repertoire. The four soloists are Michele Crider (soprano), Olga Borodina (mezzo), Frank Lopardo (tenor) and René Pape (bass), with the London Voices, the London Symphony Chorus and Orchestra.

The Practice

ITV, 9.00pm

David E. Kelley, who gave us *LA Law* and *Chicago Hope*, is behind this legal drama set in Boston. The focus is on a small law firm staffed by a group of eager young advocates who tend to put idealism before paying the bills. They are more interested in righting wrongs, especially for the less privileged, than exacting huge fees. How long this admirable altruism can survive promises to be a theme of the series. Meanwhile, the head of the practice (Dylan McDermott) is soon in action defending a 17-year-old girl accused of possessing cocaine and the firm's newest recruit (Kelli Williams) takes on a tobacco giant. The courtroom scenes are less than gripping and, so far at least, characterisation is thin. But the formula has potential and Kelley's track record suggests he should be patient.

QED: Challenging Children

BBC1, 10.20pm (Scotland 11.00pm)

The second challenging child of this series is five-year-old Jordan, who suffers from autism. This means he can make no sense of the world, has no imagination or social skills and is prone to screaming fits. The cause is a biological brain



The Broadrick family (BBC1, 10.20pm)

disorder which the experts say is irreversible. The strain on the boy's family is immense, but his parents, Peter and Jackie Broadrick, refuse to believe that he cannot improve. Instead of sending Jordan to residential school they raise £17,000 to pay for a pioneering therapy in the United States. Central to it is placing Jordan into a special playroom and gaining his trust. Charlotte Howarth's film is not the story of a miracle cure. Rather, it shows the long, patient and difficult process, with many setbacks along the way, by which Jordan is coaxed back towards normal life.

Jo Brand: Like It Or Lump It

Channel 4, 10.30pm

Once, at an hour when children were likely to be watching, television screened a Jo Brand routine which was exquisitely timed, very funny and contained not even a hint of strong language or contentious material. In other words she was playing the traditional stand-up comic and doing it brilliantly. Her detractors will say this is evidence that she does not need to be offensive to be effective. But there are plenty of supporters of the other Brand, the one who delights in shock, and this version should be well to the fore in this new series. Based on a national tour, Brand shows scenes from a different venue (these include a chocolate factory, a knacker's yard and a fire station) and mixes stand-up with sketches and documentary footage. Prepare to be outraged. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Lost in London

Radio 3, 9.00pm

This daily series on the lost concert halls of London has produced a wealth of fascinating information but its principal service has been as a warning against complacency: we are altogether too prone to allow important buildings simply to be lost, either completely or in their original form, through a lack of vigilance. The series is presented by Andrew Green, whose enthusiasm for, and sadness concerning the loss of, great buildings is palpable and perfectly justified. The last programme, today, is about Queen's Hall, which appears to have been adjacent to Broadcasting House. The loss of this, the first venue of the Proms, can be blamed on the Nazis rather than planners: firebombs destroyed the hall in 1941

RADIO 1

Radio 3, 9.00pm

7.00am Kavin Gearing 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 2.00pm Nicky Campbell 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Pete Tong - Essential Selection 10.00 One in the Jungle 12.00 Radio 1 Rap Show with Tim Westwood 2.00am Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up To Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Thompson 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.00 Johnnie Walker 7.00pm Denis O'Brien 8.00pm The 1960s 9.00pm The 1970s 10.00pm The 1980s 11.00pm The 1990s 12.00am The 2000s 1.00am The 2010s 2.00am The 2020s 3.00am The 2030s 4.00am The 2040s 5.00am The 2050s 6.00am The 2060s 7.00am The 2070s 8.00am The 2080s 9.00am The 2090s 10.00am The 2100s 11.00am The 2110s 12.00pm The 2120s 1.00pm The 2130s 2.00pm The 2140s 3.00pm The 2150s 4.00pm The 2160s 5.00pm The 2170s 6.00pm The 2180s 7.00pm The 2190s 8.00pm The 2200s 9.00pm The 2210s 10.00pm The 2220s 11.00pm The 2230s 12.00am The 2240s 1.00am The 2250s 2.00am The 2260s 3.00am The 2270s 4.00am The 2280s 5.00am The 2290s 6.00am The 2300s 7.00am The 2310s 8.00am The 2320s 9.00am The 2330s 10.00am The 2340s 11.00am The 2350s 12.00pm The 2360s 1.00pm The 2370s 2.00pm The 2380s 3.00pm The 2390s 4.00pm The 2400s 5.00pm The 2410s 6.00pm The 2420s 7.00pm The 2430s 8.00pm The 2440s 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After everything that has happened, there was something comforting, almost cathartic, about an evening that welcomed back so many old friends. The return of *Casualty*, the continuation of a crashing Taggart (as opposed to a tagging Cracker) and a new series of *Horizon*, was the signal we had been waiting for: the autumn season was at last under way. The fact that you needed two video recorders to watch all three simply confirmed it.

The writing to say is that their return was also a signal that television life was getting back to normal. But — and there is no tipping round the unpalatable fact — all three were reminders that what was actually getting back to normal was television death. None more so than *Casualty* (BBC1), where we know full well that despite the gallant efforts of Charlie, Baz and co a certain proportion

of their patients are not going to make it to the final credits. How this produces the warm feeling of "oh golly, *Casualty's* back" I don't know. But it does. Most nights.

Mind you, it was tough and go last night and you could see why the schedulers had had such trouble (the episode had been postponed twice) finding an appropriate slot. For a start, nothing much happened for the first half an hour. Somebody had a baby, a postcard arrived which, I think, said that Matt and Jude had got married (it was difficult to hear, too many people were talking) and the annual intake of new characters arrived. Among the last, the most promising appears to be the new hospital manager, who, played by the marvellously sinister Peter Guinness, is virtually the Devil incarnate. Charlie's going to get awfully tricky.

The problem with nothing happening for half an hour in *Casualty*

is, however, is that when it does come, it's not going to be big. Sure enough, as storylines converged on Holby town centre, the shopping centre was rocked by an authentic-looking bomb explosion.

Now, apart from the grisly aftermath which you could be forgiven for being in the mood for, some might feel that it was unfortunate to have a bomb explosion in the middle of an IRA ceasefire. But nothing like as unfortunate as a couple of years ago, when the BBC's enthusiastic embrace of the initial peace process resulted in a whole raft of strongly pro-Ireland dramas seeing the light of day... just as the bombs started going off again. At least, this way round, nobody gets disappointed.

From then it was pretty much *Casualty* as normal. Some died (mainly those whose husbands hadn't been watching 999) and

some survived; some of the new characters got on with the established regulars and some didn't. As for the fortuitous vilification of the press that I mentioned on Monday, it was well wide of the mark. Taking intrusive photographs of princesses is one thing, but to describe photographers covering a bomb explosion as "paparazzi" is plain ridiculous. All that said, I was still pleased to see it back and the best thing is — there are still 25 episodes to come. By contrast, there is only one more instalment of the current three-part Taggart (ITV) to go. But I'm looking forward to that as I haven't looked forward to a Taggart episode for some time.

I've never subscribed to the view that the series couldn't survive without Mark McManus, but since his death the trio remain — James MacPherson as Mike Jardine, Blythe Duff as Jackie Reid and Ian Anders as McVie — have been let down by scripts that have been lightweight, clichéd and disappointingly straightforward. More than once it seemed that Taggart was even being played for laughs.

That being the case then, *Babushka*, written by Robert Smith, represents several steps in the right direction. It's complex (clearly it was even less clear what was going on at the end of last

night's episode than it had been at the end of the first) and it's menacing, the latter considerably aided and abetted by an impressively intense performance from Paul Ireland as the surly Duncan. Almost certainly he didn't murder Hollis, the wealthy timber merchant with a fatal weakness for bladders, but that's by the by.

There are still glimpses of humour — Reid's backchat, Fraser's on-site interviews — but they are far more controlled than they have been in the recent past. One minute a wronged wife is theatrically throwing cups at walls, the next it's sulphuric acid at the face of beautiful but mysterious Ukrainians. She missed, but McManus, I think, would still have approved.

Death on an infinitely large scale was the theme of *Horizon* (BBC2), but as the mass extinction of the dinosaurs took place some 65 million years ago I thought I could probably cope. That was until I learnt that the last thoughts of most dinosaurs would have been: "Ouch, what a particularly severe case of sunburn." And with that most of them were dead, extinct, the full fossilised disaster. Poor big things.

The story of how they met their death seemed a curious one to kick off a new series, because the suggestion that it was a comet smashing into the Earth has been around for nearly 20 years now. But rarely will you find a complex scientific story unravelled with the clarity it was last night. My abiding memory, however, will be of the late Gene Shoemaker, cheerfully discussing the odds on a comet striking Earth again, little knowing that it was the odds on a road traffic accident in Australia that ought to have been his immediate concern. Suddenly I felt sad: death had become real again.

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

some survived; some of the new characters got on with the established regulars and some didn't. As for the fortuitous vilification of the press that I mentioned on Monday, it was well wide of the mark. Taking intrusive photographs of princesses is one thing, but to describe photographers covering a bomb explosion as "paparazzi" is plain ridiculous. All that said, I was still pleased

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (58947)
 - 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (18185299)
 - 9.05am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (12032096)
 - 9.30am Style Challenge (1561096)
 - 9.55am Kilroy (15810657)
 - 10.35am Change That (1993183)
 - 11.00am News (T) and weather (4265251)
 - 11.05am The Really Useful Show (T) (9205270)
 - 11.35am Room for Improvement (2876270)
 - 12.00pm News (T) and weather (5735473)
 - 12.05pm Call My Bluff (5013164)
 - 12.35am Going for a Song (9626725)
 - 1.00pm News (T) and weather (59102)
 - 1.30pm Regional News and weather (T) (17813251)
 - 1.40pm The Weather Show (87778164)
 - 1.45pm Neighbours (T) (77556744)
 - 2.10pm Quincey (2/2) Quincey and Dr Carlisle work against the clock to identify the cause of an epidemic (T) (6398873)
 - 3.00pm Through the Keyhole (7277812)
 - 3.25pm Playdays (T) (7296947) 3.50pm Dear Mr Barker (1926812) 4.05pm Bananaman (T) (3005589) 4.10pm To Me, to You (T) (4003589) 4.35pm Agent Z and the Penguin from Mars (T) (6097928) 5.00pm Newsround (T) (9492184) 5.10pm Blue Peter (T) (5381560)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (T) (T) (803611)
 - 6.00pm News (T) and weather (251)
 - 6.30pm Regional News (T) (831)
 - 7.00pm Weekend Watchdog The Holiday Rescue team investigates a typhoid outbreak in the Dominican Republic; 'antiques' in Brighton; and how some removal men are taking to the pain of moving house (T) (8309)
 - 7.30pm Top of the Pops Exclusives, new videos and live performances, plus a rundown of the Top 40 (T) (265)
 - 8.00pm Vets in Practice It's Christmas, but there's no rest for the young vets Emma and Hannah (T) (2744)
 - 8.30pm Keeping Up Appearances Hycinth plots to rescue Richard from social obscurity (T) (1251)
 - 9.00pm News (T) regional news and weather (3831)
 - 9.30pm Dangerfield: Perfect Witness The police face difficulties when they suspect a common link between two rape victims diagnosed with hepatitis C. Can Dangerfield help? (T) (989631)
 - 10.20pm QED: Challenging Children One family's quest to communicate with their autistic son (T) (938903)
 - 11.20pm Escape to Victory (1981) starring Sylvester Stallone and Michael Caine. How a group of Allied prisoners-of-war plotted their escape by sea on their captors in a battle ship. Directed by John Huston (198398)
 - 1.10pm The Incident (1980) starring Walter Matthau, Susan Blakely and Robert Cammarino. A drama about a has-been lawyer defending a German officer accused of murder in a Colorado prisoner-of-war camp in 1941. Directed by Joseph Sargent (7905033)
 - 2.40pm Weather (724752)
- VideoPlus+** and the Video PlusCode
- The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode numbers, which allow you to programme your VCR to watch a particular programme. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to watch. VideoPlus+ is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open University: The World of the Dragon (4800299) 6.25pm Social Scientists at Work (5982763)
 - 7.15pm See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (4750454)
 - 7.30pm Smurfs' Adventures (6841831) 7.55pm Cartoon Critters (T) (5853909) 8.20pm William's Wish Wellingtons (1836575) 8.25pm Wishing (7503763) 8.35pm Teletubbies (1435295) 8.50pm Harry and the Hendersons (1922837) 9.25pm Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (3228589) 9.45pm Rocky Star (8023386) 9.50pm Tom and Jerry (8004251) 10.00pm Teletubbies (18367)
 - 10.30pm The Strawberry Blonde (b/w, 1941) James Cagney and Olivia de Havilland star in this romantic comedy. Directed by Raoul Walsh (17063093)
 - 12.05pm The Phil Silvers Show (3218299)
 - 12.30pm Working Lunch (17541)
 - 1.00pm The Little Polar Bear (7383694) 1.05pm Pingu (73835218) 1.10pm The Great Train Robbery (1936) 2.15pm A Day That Shook the World (36274893)
 - 2.20pm Racing from Goodwood Julian Wilson introduces the 2.40, 3.10 and 3.40 races (550587) 4.00pm Ready, Steady, Cook (744) 4.30pm Going, Going, Gone (8006299)
 - 4.55pm International Tennis Quarter-finals of the Open at Bournemouth (8584812)
 - 6.00pm Star Trek (T) (1261314)
 - 6.50pm The X-Files (898933)
 - 7.00pm Top Gear Motorsport World Trials Championship in California and the Czech Republic. Plus: 30th anniversary celebrations of Formula Vee and Eurocar action from Melbury Park (T) (1638)
 - 7.30pm Sir Colin Davis conducts (7.30pm)
 - 7.30pm BBC Proms '97 Live from the Albert Hall. Sir Colin Davis conducts Verdi's Requiem. Introduced by James Naughtie. Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 3 (37398)
 - 9.00pm Bottom Ritchie and Eddie's world tells apart (T) (1473)
 - 9.30pm Shooting Stars: The Best Bits (1/2) (T) (37305)
 - 10.00pm Room 101 Comedian Arthur Smith is the guest (T) (98928)
 - 10.25pm Video Nation Shorts (162289)
 - 10.30pm Newsnight (T) (345883)
 - 11.15pm VR 5 Sci-Fi drama, starring Lori Singer (320744)
 - 12.00pm Light Sleeper (1991) Middle-aged drug dealer William Daloe tries to live in the sleepy New York underworld. Also with Susan Sarandon. Written and directed by Paul Schrader (T) (539329)
 - 1.40pm Grand Central Murder (b/w, 1942) With Van Heflin, Patricia Dane and Cecilia Parker. Investigating the murder of an actress on a train. Directed by Sylvan Simon (1855232)
 - 2.50pm Weather (7324706)

- HTV**
- 6.00am GMTV (766015)
 - 9.25pm Supermarket Sweep (2012980)
 - 9.55pm Regional News (T) (1579541)
 - 10.00pm The Time, the Place (52913)
 - 10.30pm This Morning including at 10.55 News, local news and weather (18367744)
 - 12.20pm HTV News (6731657) (18367744)
 - 12.30pm News (T) and weather (9912522)
 - 12.55pm Dog with a Dumbor (920541) 1.25pm Home and Away (T) (58654102) 1.50pm Home and Away (T) (58654102) 1.50pm Murder, She Wrote (T) (3861386) 2.50pm Garden Calendar (T) (6231015) 3.19pm HTV Crimestoppers (4261034)
 - 3.20pm HTV News (T) (4268947)
 - 3.25pm Regional News (T) (4267218)
 - 3.30pm Jays' World (1917164) 3.40pm Kipper (7749980) 4.00pm Roger and the Rotterdams (2083183) 4.15pm Hurricanes (4097928) 4.40pm Fun House (7687015)
 - 5.10pm A Country Practice (2836096)
 - 5.40pm News (T) and weather (280947)
 - 6.00pm Home and Away (T) (571724)
 - 6.25pm HTV News (900725)
 - 6.30pm The West Tonight (T) (298)
 - 7.00pm Bruce's Price Is Right Bruce Forsyth presents the popular quiz (T) (8164)
 - 7.30pm Coronation Street Jim pleads with Fiona (T) (183)
 - 8.00pm The Bill The Sun Hill squad capture a gang of armed robbers, then discover one of their guns has gone missing (T) (7812)
 - 8.30pm Strange But True Michael Aspel introduces a new series of investigations into paranormal phenomena (T) (8947)
 - 9.00pm The Practice New American drama from the creator of LA Law and Chicago Hope. With Dylan McDermott, Camryn Manheim, Steve Harris, Kelli Williams (T) (5541)
 - 10.00pm News (T) (85454)
 - 10.30pm HTV News and Weather (743541)
 - 10.40pm Late and Live Chat show presented by Dave Barrett and Patricia Yorston. Tonight's guests include Lady Colin Campbell. Music is provided by Sweet Soul Sisters (9521305)
 - 12.10pm Short Story Cinema (3780435)
 - 12.40pm The Paul Ross Show (64384)
 - 2.15pm The Criminal (1960, b/w) Crime drama with Stanley Baker, Margit Sied and Sam Wanamaker. Directed by Joseph Losey (728313)
 - 3.55pm Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (T) (7903888)
 - 4.20pm Recollections (90863315)
 - 4.35pm Coach (T) (31637888)
 - 5.00pm Coronation Street (T) (30503)
 - 5.30pm News (27400)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm-1.25pm A Country Practice (920541)
 - 2.50-3.20pm Surprise Chefs (321015)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (2336096)
 - 6.25-7.00pm Central News (584928)
 - 10.30pm Central News (734893)
 - 10.45pm Film: Hated (29045386)
 - 2.10pm The Lads (3970619)
 - 2.40pm Baywatch (513061)
 - 3.05pm Baywatch (513061)
 - 4.00pm Hellfire Stalker (4934665)
 - 4.50pm Central Jolifinder '97 (224315)
 - 5.20pm Asian Eye (1306110)
- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.20pm-12.30pm Illuminations (6731657)
 - 12.55pm Home and Away (920541)
 - 1.25pm Drowning (T) (3433134)
 - 1.55pm Westcountry News (77561676)
 - 2.25-2.30pm Blue Heelers (9348198)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (2836096)
 - 6.00-7.00pm Westcountry News (23366)
 - 10.30pm Westcountry News (734893)
 - 10.45pm Film: Hated (29045386)
- As HTV West except:**
- 12.55-1.25pm Shortland Street (920541)
 - 1.50pm Serve You Right (77562305)
 - 2.20-3.20pm Highway to Heaven (8573367)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Home and Away (2836096)
 - 6.00-7.00pm Meridian Tonight (23366)
 - 10.40pm The Magic and Mystery Show (922454)
 - 11.15pm Weekly World News (770454)
 - 11.45pm Wiseguy (106003)
 - 5.00pm Newsround (30503)
- ANGIA**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25pm A Country Practice (920541)
 - 1.50pm Countrywide (77562305)
 - 2.20-3.20pm Highway to Heaven (8573367)
 - 5.10-5.40pm Shortland Street (2336096)
 - 6.25pm Anglia Weather (901454)
 - 6.25-7.00pm Anglia News (584928)
 - 10.25pm Anglia News Watch (18725)
 - 10.30pm Anglia News Extra (84102)
 - 11.00pm Film: The Raven (1963) starring Vincent Price, directed by Roger Corman (840589)
- Starts: 6.00pm Sesame Street (51657) 7.00pm The Big Breakfast (49725) 9.00pm Something So Right (95831) 9.30pm The Magnificent Dope (85522) 11.00pm Food File (6305) 11.20pm Here's One I Made Earlier (7034) 12.00pm Sesame Street (51657) 12.30pm Baby Baby (19909) 1.00pm Slot Machine (8193725) 1.15pm Slot Machine (8193725) 1.30pm The Porter, the Miner and the Papermaker (65590) 2.00pm Racing from Doncaster (2454) 4.00pm Bewitched (T) (812) 4.30pm Countdown (T) (6081367) 4.55pm 50/50 (T) (676) 5.30pm 50/50 (T) (676) 5.50pm 50/50 (T) (676) 6.00pm 50/50 (T) (676) 6.25pm 50/50 (T) (676) 6.50pm 50/50 (T) (676) 7.00pm 50/50 (T) (676) 7.25pm 50/50 (T) (676) 7.50pm 50/50 (T) (676) 8.00pm 50/50 (T) (676) 8.25pm 50/50 (T) (676) 8.50pm 50/50 (T) (676) 9.00pm 50/50 (T) (676) 9.25pm 50/50 (T) (676) 9.50pm 50/50 (T) (676) 10.00pm 50/50 (T) (676) 10.25pm 50/50 (T) (676) 10.50pm 50/50 (T) (676) 11.00pm 50/50 (T) (676) 11.25pm 50/50 (T) (676) 11.50pm 50/50 (T) (676) 12.00pm 50/50 (T) (676) 12.25pm 50/50 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TENNIS 42

Rusedski is pushed to the limit as tiredness takes over

SPORT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1997

GOLF 42

Magic touch earns Ballesteros share of lead in Paris



Hoddle takes positive path to lion's den

By OLIVER HOIT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE long history of Rome is well-served in moments of truth. If you put your hand in the Bocca della Verità, a mouth set in an ancient face of stone, and tell a lie, legend says that it will snap off your hand. If you set foot in the Olympic Stadium in front of 80,000 baying Italians on an October night and expect an easy ride to the World Cup final at the expense of your hosts, reality dictates that you will suffer a rude awakening.

England's training schedule during the three days that they will spend in the Eternal City before the showdown with Italy on October 11 and the fabled aversion of some of the players to seeing some of the great sights of the world, even when they are on their doorstep, means that Glenn Hoddle need not worry about members of his squad losing any fingers in the preamble to the game.

After the convincing 4-0 victory over Moldova on Wednesday

night, the England coach's analysis of his team's prospects for World Cup qualification, now that they only need a point from the game in Rome, suggests that they will not lose their heads either.

He is optimistic, of course, and has every reason to be. Without Alan Shearer, Teddy Sheringham, Paul Ince and Tony Adams, Eng-



Gascoigne creative

land still produced an efficient performance to dispose of the Moldovans. In midfield, Paul Gascoigne returned to something close to his creative best; in attack, Ian Wright showed that he is a capable deputy for Shearer with two well-taken goals and an astute pass that set up the third goal for Gascoigne.

Even more important, perhaps, was the fact that Italy had slipped to a dull, goalless draw against Georgia in Tbilisi, a result that changed the whole complexion of group two by leaving England at its head and Italy needing to chase a win in Rome, rather than just a point.

Moreover, they will have to attempt to get those three points without the influential Chelsea midfielder player, Roberto Di Matteo, who will be absent through suspension, and against an England team that should be bolstered by the fearsome midfield qualities of Ince and the defensive nous of Adams.

The way that the group has

unfolded is vindication of the unflappable stance Hoddle has taken since England's defeat by Italy at Wembley in February, his calm assertion that qualification would go right to the wire. Even though the tables have now turned and England are in the driving seat, Hoddle is maintaining his sense of perspective.

Maldini comes under fire

ITALY yesterday turned on Cesare Maldini, with commentators warning that if they lost or drew against England next month his job as coach was on the line (Richard Owen writes).

"Oh Maldini, what have you done?" the headline in *Corriere dello Sport* wailed, while RAI, the Italian state television, gloomily contrasted Italy's "abysmal" performance in the 0-0 draw against Georgia with England's 4-0 win over Moldova.

Maldini was unrepentant. "We will play the game of our lives

"It is a little bit early to start thinking about Rome, but we will need steady heads over there and we will need to play shrewdly," Hoddle said. "It will be a hell of a task to win the game, but I have always said that I thought we could win there and I think, psychologically, there is an edge that has swung round towards us."

"We don't need to go there and win the game any more. The pressure is just a little bit more on them. Obviously, it is sometimes a great help to have 80,000 fans behind you, but, if the pressure builds up and they don't get a goal early, that could count against them."

"We have got a platform to go there now with belief. It is going to be about how much we have belief in ourselves to go there and win the game. It is very difficult for English players to go anywhere with the mentality of drawing a game, so our approach will still be to try to win. Give me my experienced players, and give me them fit, and we will be in with a good chance."

One of those experienced players is Gascoigne, who will have an extra incentive to perform to his optimum in the Olympic Stadium because he played there during his troubled years with Lazio in Serie A. Hoddle devoted a large portion of his post-match comments to praising the attitude of the player

whom he has stuck by through thick and thin. "If he had not had a good game," Hoddle said, "we all know what the headlines would have been and what the questions would have been — 'Was this his last chance?' and 'We cannot play him in Rome' — but he was absolutely magnificent. Some people will say, 'It was only Moldova', but if it was that easy, all the players would have been doing what he was doing, but they weren't. It was Paul Gascoigne who was doing it."

"He showed enough during the Tournoi for me to know that, if he could remain injury-free, we could get him back to nearly his very best. He has gone a long, long way to showing that he has got that ability. At last, he is starting to show some real signs of maturity."

France.

If Gascoigne can go to the Bocca della Verità after the match against Italy, say that he played his best game and emerge with his hand untouched, England should by then have secured their place in France.

Gough adds to Yorkshire's woes

Defiant Marsh turns title tide in Kent's favour

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Kent have a first-innings lead of 62 runs over Yorkshire

EITHER side of lunchtime in Leeds, with the clouds low and the ball swinging, Yorkshiremen dared to speak of victory and, moreover, of the Holy Grail that is the championship. After 29 years, it is a subject raised only with low voices in dark corners in these parts, but as five Kent wickets fell for 33 runs, even the most cynical in another 4,000-strong crowd began checking their diaries for next week.

It was then that Kent demonstrated the depth and det-

TOP OF TABLE

Rank	Team	P	W	D	L	T	Pts
1	Gloucestershire	16	7	4	4	5	228
2	Yorkshire	16	6	2	7	11	218
3	Leicestershire	16	6	2	7	11	208

Including bonus points from yesterday

mination that has taken them to the head of the table and may now keep them there. Simultaneously, things began to go wrong for Yorkshire, none more serious than a hamstring injury that brought Darren Gough hobbling from the field, his comeback — and his season — at an end.

Without their spearhead again, Yorkshire began to toil. Chris Silverwood persevered to claim career-best figures of seven for 93, but the most significant statistic of a second

riveting day was that, from the predicament of 202 for seven, the last three Kent wickets added 172, 84 of them scored by the captain, Steve Marsh.

For someone who regularly bats at No 9, Marsh has had a remarkable season. These runs brought his first-class aggregate to 821 and were made, as is his wont, without fuss or flourish. Kent secured a first-innings lead of 62, riches that had appeared far beyond them, and the bad light that prevented Yorkshire batting again was indicative of their darkening day.

The loss of Gough was central. He had bowled only five unthreatening overs before lunch and was in his first of a new spell when he pulled up. Wayne Morton, physiotherapist to Yorkshire and England, admitted the possibility that the latest setback was connected to the knee injury that had kept him out of the last two Tests of the Ashes series.

These things can happen through overcompensation," Morton said. "He will obviously not bowl again here and, as hamstring injuries take three or four weeks to clear up, the priority now is to get him fully fit for his winter commitments with England."

The onus fell heavily upon Yorkshire's two recent England A selections and the fact that one took seven wickets and the other only one was an injustice. Paul Hutchison beat the bat more times than he could decently count before finally yanking Marsh. It could be called part of the learning curve for one to whom success has come in a rush, but Hutchison would

have been ill-disposed to such philosophy.

Silverwood's day could hardly have been more different. It seemed that he had only to grab the ball to take a wicket. His first over found Fulton thin-edging a pull to be caught behind and he struck with the second and third balls of subsequent spells. Only while Ward was making a rapid 56 — 48 of them in fours — while the sun shone before noon did Silverwood struggle.

An inswinger from White hit Ward's leg stump and Headley, who had taken his nightwatchman brief to unexpected lengths, was thrown out by Stump as he attempted

a second run to third man. Byas recalled Silverwood and, as the cloud over lowered, he defeated Wells and Ealham with late swing.

When Cowdrey stretched forward to the first ball after lunch, giving Blakey a regular catch and Silverwood his fifth wicket, Kent were confronting a deficit large enough to be serious on a pitch cracked in places and offering increasingly uneven pace and bounce. Yorkshire, however, lost their way.

Gough and White left the field, the latter for running repairs to a back complaint, and Hutchison continued luckless, Byas dropping Flem-

ing off him at slip with the score 241. Another 44 accrued before the stand was broken, once more by Silverwood, as Fleming was too adventurous outside off stump and departed for a responsible 53.

The best and most influential batting came from Marsh, spanning the afternoon session and another hour afterwards. Only against Vaughan, whose off spin he suddenly dispatched for 4-4-6, did he deviate from disciplined self-denial. The ninth-wicket stand of 86 with an equally imperturbable Strang may have turned this game, if the deteriorating weather permits a proper conclusion.



Silverwood celebrates the fall of Fleming, whose dismissal earned him career-best figures of seven for 93. Photograph: Simon Wilkinson

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1197

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- ACROSS**
- Supporting beam (5)
 - Foreign territory within one's own borders (7)
 - Take liberties (7)
 - Call forth (eg memories) (5)
 - Below: Welsh town (5)
 - A spice: red (hair) (6)
 - Agitated (6)
 - Direct (opposition, collision) (4-2)
 - Gloucester's bastard son (Leir) (6)
 - He made an envious rent (J. Coates) (5)
 - Lump of displaced turf (5)
 - Heavy weight for stability (7)
 - Confirm, approve (7)
 - Vex (5)
- DOWN**
- Language for Noh, haiku (5)
 - 1 dn flower-arranging (7)
 - Durable; shabby (5)
 - Slowly come out (6)
 - Purify (7)
 - Make reparation (5)
 - Former PM: old Garden (4)
 - Foot-soldiers (8)
 - 0° latitude line (7)
 - Scorn, contempt (7)
 - Fit to eat (6)
 - Welsh patron saint (5)
 - Rosalind's companion (AYL) (5)
 - Unemployed (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1196

ACROSS: 1 Pigtail 5 Cupid 8 Route 9 Grabhame 10 Gift of the gab 12 Audrey 14 Setter 17 Go by the board 21 Engrave 22 Roost 23 Lotus 24 Trotter

DOWN: 1 Paragony 2 Gruff 3 Awesome 4 Lights 5 Crave 6 Peasant 7 Diet 11 Predator 13 Drought 15 Embargo 16 Threat 18 Yeats 19 Aloft 20 Bell

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Woodward is new coach

By MARK SOULSTER

ENGLAND's long and occasionally embarrassing search for a new coach will end on Monday, when Clive Woodward will be confirmed as the successor to Jack Rowell. Woodward, to whom the Rugby Football Union turned once Ian McGeechan had rejected the job, has signed a full-time, three-year contract.

The delay in confirming Woodward's appointment — the international squads announced yesterday meet next Wednesday — had been caused by his reluctance to break his verbal agreement with Bath, where he has been coaching on a part-time basis this season. He had hoped to combine both roles until next June, but Twickenham has long insisted that whoever followed Rowell, who resigned for business reasons at the end of last month, would have to commit himself full-time.

"It was made clear 14 months ago that the next appointment would be full time and we could not go back on that, even if it meant losing Clive. We are delighted to have worked things out



Woodward: leaving Bath

because he will be good for England," a source at Twickenham said yesterday.

Woodward, 41, was prepared to forsake the chance to take over rather than walk out on Bath. However, the club told him this week that he would be released, albeit reluctantly, rather than be denied the opportunity he covets. Bath will be paid compensation, the amount of which will be finalised over the weekend.

The complete coaching staff will be in place by Monday, with Roger Utley confirmed as manager and John Mitchell, of Sale, as the forwards'

coach. Andrew Harriman will manage England A, assisted by Rob Smith, of Wasps, and Richard Hill, of Gloucester, who had been refused permission by his club to contemplate a more senior role.

An extended training squad of 77 players will have an opportunity to meet the new management teams at Bisham Abbey on Wednesday, among them the two Wasps back-row forwards, Mike White and Peter Scriver, who have yet to appear in an England A team or senior tour party. Every English player who toured with either the British Isles in South Africa or England in Argentina during the summer is included.

Simon Shaw starts his first competitive match for Wasps on Sunday, when the English league champions play Glasgow in the second round of Heineken Cup matches. Meanwhile, Harlequins prefer Huw Harries to Nick Walshe at scrum half against Bourgoin at the Stoop Memorial Ground tomorrow and Jeremy Guscott returns from injury to the Bath side to play the Scottish Borders at Hawick on Sunday.

Underdogs handed Celtic tie

ALL prizes are coveted, but the semi-finalists of the Scottish Coca-Cola Cup will feel that they are competing for more than just the trophy itself (Kevin McCarr writes).

Yesterday, Dunfermline Athletic were drawn to face Celtic and Aberdeen to meet Dundee United.

There has been no trophy for Celtic since the Tennents Scottish Cup in 1995, even if the present side did seem equipped to cope with the demands during their 1-0 victory over Motherwell on Wednesday.

Dunfermline will view the tie as a means of atonement. Last year, they were crushed 6-1 by Rangers in the semi-final.

To Aberdeen, the Coca-Cola Cup represents a refuge. They have only won twice in the league since December. They won this cup two seasons ago, though.

Dundee United's victory over the holders, Rangers, testified to a recovery of their form of last season.

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